FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

ATTENTION!! ATTENTION!! ATTENTION!!

FBIS will phase out publication of most of its paper reports, including ALL Daily Reports and most FBIS Reports, by 31 December 1996.

See inside for information on how to access FBIS products and services electronically.

FBIS-NES-96-065
Wednesday
3 April 1996

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

April 1996

Dear Customer:

Responding to our many customers' requests, NTIS will be offering FBIS publications electronically. Due to resource limitations, hardcopy production of FBIS publications will be phased out during 1996. We will notify our customers well in advance of the expiration date for each of our publications. Please see below regarding electronic access to products.

Our goal is to cease publication of all reports by 31 December 1996, except for S&T PERSPECTIVES, S&T CENTRAL EURASIA, S&T CHINA, S&T KOREA, S&T EUROPE, and S&T JAPAN. The S&T reports will continue to be published as hardcopy until the graphics they contain can be disseminated on-line.

FBIS products are offered electronically through the National Technical Information Service's (NTIS) "World News Connection" (WNC). This is a new on-line subscription service accessible through the World Wide Web. The Web address is http://wnc.fedworld.gov. Please see next page for a subscription form or call NTIS Fax Direct at 703-487-4140 and enter product code 8645 to receive more information.

World News Connection™

A Foreign News Alert Service from the U.S. Government

World News Connection - WNC1.....$ 21
7 Day - Introductory Offer
Unlimited interactive searching
[no profiles]
Order number SUB-9856BDQ

World News Connection - WNC2.....$ 50
Monthly
Unlimited interactive searching
[no profiles]
Order number PB95-985700BDQ

World News Connection - WNC3.....$ 75
Monthly
Unlimited interactive searching
[1 profile]
Order number PB95-985800BDQ

World News Connection - WNC4.....$100
Monthly
Unlimited interactive searching
[up to 5 profiles]
Order number PB95-985900BDQ
(Prices are subject to change)

User Name *(Please Print or Type)*	**Internet E-mail Address** *(Required)*	**Order Number**	**Price**
1) _____	_____	_____	_____
2) _____	_____	_____	_____

(Continue on a blank sheet if more space is required)

Deposit Account Number (for NTIS account customers only): _____

Customer Master Number (if known): _____ Date: _____

Contact Name: _____ Organization: _____

Street Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Province/Territory: _____ Country: _____

Foreign Postal Code: _____

Internet E-mail Address (Organization contact person): _____

Telephone Number: ( ) _____ Fax Number: ( ) _____

Credit Card Number: _____

Credit Card Expiration Date: _____

Card Type (Visa, Master Card, or American Express): _____

Cardholder's Name (as printed on the credit card): _____

Cardholder's Signature (required to validate all orders): _____

(Please fax this form back to NTIS at **703-321-8547**. Fax service is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
To verify receipt of your fax, call (703) 487-4679 between 7:00am - 5:00pm, Monday - Friday, Eastern Time.)

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-96-065 *3 April 1996*

CONTENTS

NOTICE: An * indicates material that may not be disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Inter-Arab Affairs

Inter-Arab Affairs: Arab League Meeting To Discuss Israeli Nuclear Leak *[MENA]* 1
Inter-Arab Affairs: Arab League Seeking Summit To Discuss Israeli 'Siege' *[MENA]* 1
Inter-Arab Affairs: Yemeni President, Arab League Chief Discuss Island Dispute *[MENA]* 1

Palestinian Affairs

Palestinian Affairs: 'Arafat Adviser Reacts to Peres Referendum Proposal *[Amman Radio]* 1
Palestinian Affairs: Council Speaker, Member Criticize Peres' Referendum Remarks *[Gaza TV]* 2
Palestinian Affairs: Ministry Says Peres' Remarks 'Unreasonable, Unobjective' *[Jericho VOP]* 3
Palestinian Affairs: 'Arafat Arrives in Ramallah; Legislative Council Meets *[Jericho VOP]* ... 3
Palestinian Affairs: Al-Qassam Leaflet Warns of 'Sea of Blood' in Gaza, West Bank *[JMCC PRESS SERVICE]* 4
Palestinian Affairs: 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam Statement Urges More Suicide Attacks *[AFP]* 5
Palestinian Affairs: Official Warns of 'Coup' Against Authority *[Jericho VOP]* 5
Palestinian Affairs: 'Arafat Reportedly Seeking To Curb Qaddumi's Powers *[AL-NAHAR 31 Mar]* 7
Palestinian Affairs: Hamas Asks Arab League To Halt PA 'Measures' *[MENA]* 7
Palestinian Affairs: Al-Husayni Says Closure Israeli 'Act of Revenge' *[MENA]* 7

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Algeria: Organizations React to President's Call For Dialogue *[Algiers Radio]* 9
Algeria: Al-Nahdah's Djaballah on Prospects for Dialogue *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 3 Apr]* 9
Algeria: Djaballah on Pelletreau Backing for Dialogue *[London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI 2 Apr]* 10
Algeria: FIS European Supporters Issue Newsletter *[Southall THE ENLIGHTENMENT 26 Mar]* 11

Egypt

Egypt: U.S. Defense Secretary Perry Arrives; Military Talks Begin *[MENA]* 14
Egypt: Mubarak Receives U.S. Defense Secretary *[MENA]* 14
Egypt: Mubarak Returns From Syrian Visit *[MENA]* 14
Egypt: Papers Comment on Importance of Mubarak's Visit to Syria *[MENA]* 14
Egypt: Tunisian Prime Minister Arrives for Committee Meetings *[MENA]* 14
Egypt: Ethiopian Envoy Concludes Visit, Departs *[MENA]* 15
Egypt: Arrested MB Members Detained for 15 Days, Charged *[MENA]* 15
Egypt: Files on Detained Muslim Brotherhood Members Detailed *[MENA]* 15
Egypt: Paper Attacks Israeli 'Practices,' U.S.-Israeli Agreement *[MENA]* 17

Libya

Libya: Unity Committee Reacts to Peres Visit to Oman, Qatar *[Tripoli TV]* 17

Sudan

Sudan: MENA Reports Student Demonstrations in Khartoum 17

Sudan: Taha Urges Ethiopia To Review Stance Toward Sudan *[Omdurman Radio]* 17
Sudan: Al-Turabi Urges Mubarak To Accept Sudanese 'Efforts' *[SUNA]* 18
Sudan: Ministry Wants Mubarak Case in Ethiopia Tried 'Openly' *[Omdurman Radio]* 18
Sudan: Envoy—UN Moving Toward Restrictions on Diplomats *[SUNA]* 18
Sudan: Government Reportedly Studying Antiterrorism Measures *[Omdurman Radio]* 18

Tunisia

Tunisia: Prime Minister on Human Rights, Population, Libyan 'Crisis' *[MENA]* 19
Tunisia: Al-Nahdah Chief Wants 'Democratic Islamic Regime' *[Milan CORRIERE DELLA SERA 2 Apr]* 20

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Kuwait

Kuwait: Assembly Discussions Conditions for Restoration of Ties *[KUNA]* 21
Kuwait: Deputy Assembly Speaker Rejects Ties to 'Pro-Iraq' States *[ARAB TIMES 25 Mar]* 21
Kuwait: Solon Voices 'Surprise' at Being Barred From Egypt, May Sue *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 31 Mar]* 22

Qatar

Qatar: Foreign Minister on Ties to Israel, Peres' Visit *[London MBC TV]* 23

Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia: Satellite Dishes 'Officially Forbidden' *[London THE GUARDIAN 3 Apr]* 23

United Arab Emirates

United Arab Emirates: Diplomatic Relations Established With Mongolia *[WAKH]* 24

Yemen

Yemen: Speaker on Saudi-Yemeni Border Issues *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 1 Apr]* 24

IRAQ

Iraq: UN Chief Said 'Optimistic' on Success of Oil-for-Food Talks *[Baghdad TV]* 26
Iraq: Foreign Ministry Denies Iranian 'Allegations' on 'Spies' *[INA]* 26
Iraq: 'Scores' of Youths Reportedly Arrested Before Saddam Visit *[Voice of Rebellious Iraq]* 26
Iraq: Al-Da'wah Party Leader Previews Damascus Opposition Meeting *[London AL-HAYAH 2 Apr]* 26
Iraq: Liquid Gas Production Increases 50 Percent *[AL-JUMHURIYAH 13 Feb]* 27
Iraq: Ministry of Industry Reports on Electricity *[AL-JUMHURIYAH 3 Feb]* 28
Iraq: Oil Refinery Establishment Reports Activity *[AL-JUMHURIYAH 3 Feb]* 28
Iraq: Maintenance of Oil Pipelines Reported *[AL-JUMHURIYAH 4 Feb]* 28

ISRAEL

Israel: Peres Explains Remarks on Referendum, Rejects 'Arafat Claim *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 29
Israel: Ministers, Parties React to Peres' Referendum Statement *[Jerusalem Radio]* 29
Israel: Ministers Agree on Further Measures To Ease Closure *[Jerusalem Radio]* 30
Israel: Knesset Committee Approves Funding for Settlements *[Jerusalem Radio]* 30
Israel: Peres, Government Contacts on Settlements *[HA'ARETZ 3 Apr, etc.]* 30
Israel: Peres Said Inclined To Put Off Hebron Pullout *[Jerusalem TV]* 32
Israel: Peres on Ties to Arab World, Hebron Pullout *[Jerusalem Radio]* 33

Israel: Foreign Minister Says Jordan Can Offer 'Equilibrium' *[JORDAN TIMES 3 Apr]* 34
Israel: Peres on Cooperation With U.S. on Lebanon, Iran Issues *[MA'ARIV 3 Apr]* 34
Israel: Chief of Staff Discusses Lebanon, Hamas Attacks, Closure *[Jerusalem Radio]* 35
Israel: Security Forces on 'High Alert' To Thwart Attacks *[Jerusalem Radio]* 35
Israel: IDF Seals House of 'Terrorist' Recruiter of Suicide Bombers *[Jerusalem Radio]* 36

JORDAN

Jordan: Prime Minister Describes Iraq as 'Big Prison' *[JORDAN TIMES 2 Apr]* 37
Jordan: Peres' Statement on Referendum 'Contradicts' Oslo Accord *[AL-RA'Y 3 Apr]* 37
Jordan: Water Authority Reports No Evidence of Radioactive Leakage *[Amman Radio]* 37
Jordan: Deputy Announces Resignation From IAF, House Bloc *[AL-ASWAQ 1 Apr]* 37
Jordan: Planning Minister on Dinar Circulation in Palestinian Areas *[JORDAN TIMES 2 Apr]* 38

LEBANON

Lebanon: Forty Thousand Forged U.S. Dollars Seized *[Beirut Radio]* 40
Lebanon: Report on Mock Raids, Attacks; UNIFIL on Israeli Rocket *[Beirut Radio]* 40
Lebanon: Buwayz—Peres Win Could Boost Peace Process *[London AL-HAYAH 31 Mar]* 40

SYRIA

Syria: Al-Asad-Mubarak Conclude Talks in Damascus *[Damascus Radio]* 42
Syria: Al-Asad, Mubarak Hold News Conference *[Damascus TV]* 42
Syria: Papers Comment on al-Asad-Mubarak Summit, Topics Discussed *[Damascus Radio]* 44
Syria: Khaddam, SAIRI Leader Discuss Escalating Action in Iraq *[Voice of Rebellious Iraq]* 45
Syria: Israeli Idea of 'New Middle East' Rejected as 'Hegemony' *[Damascus Radio]* 45
Syria: Armed Forces Urged To Support al-Asad Position on Peace *[Damascus Radio]* 46

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Afghanistan: Taleban Rockets Injure 3 in Kabul *[Kabul Radio]* 48
Afghanistan: U.S. Said To Be Sending Arms, Ammunition to Taleban *[IRNA]* 48

Bangladesh

Bangladesh: Army Begins Withdrawal From Dhaka, Chittagong *[AFP]* 48

India

India: Agreement Reached on Kremlin-PMO 'Hot Line' *[INDIAN EXPRESS 29 Mar]* 48
India: Scientists To Participate in Particle Accelerator Project *[Delhi Radio]* 49
India: ISRO Chairman Views Potential of Satellite Launch Vehicle *[Delhi Radio]* 49
India: 'Serious Concern' Expressed Over Pakistan's Nuclear Plans *[Delhi Radio]* 50
India: Five 'Militants' Killed, 1 Surrenders in Kashmir *[Delhi Radio]* 50
India: Pakistani Fake Currency 'Plot' Discovered *[Delhi Radio]* 50
India: Report Details Navy's New Long-Range Missile Project *[BUSINESS STANDARD 1 Apr]* 50
India: Government Appreciates Seizure of Arms by Bangladesh *[Delhi Radio]* 51
India: Minister Favors 'Zero Tariff' Access to Bangladesh Goods *[Delhi Radio]* 51
India: Janata Dal National General Secretary Defects to BSP *[Delhi Radio]* 51
India: Article Examines Muslim Vote in Elections *[THE HINDUSTAN TIMES 31 Mar]* 51
India: Roundup of 2 April Reports on Election Developments *[Delhi Radio]* 53
India: Two Ministers Resign To Contest Polls in Tamil Nadu *[Delhi Radio]* 54

Iran

Iran: Commentary Criticizes UK's Policy on Policial Asylum Case *[Tehran International]* 54

Iran: UK Bill To Expand Anti-Terrorist Measures Noted *[IRNA]* 54
Iran: Sarmadi Views Ties to Arabs, U.S. Policy *[AL-SHA'B 29 Mar]* 55
Iran: Kazakh Foreign Minister Arrives in Tehran on 3-Day Visit *[Tehran Radio]* 56
Iran: Velayati, Kazakh Foreign Minister Discuss Ties, Cooperation *[Tehran TV]* 57
Iran: Rafsanjani Holds Talks With Kazakh Foreign Minister *[Tehran Radio]* 57
Iran: Commentary Views EU Delegation's Visit, Terrorism Issue *[Tehran TV]* 58
Iran: Editorial Views EU Delegation's Visit *[IRNA]* 58
Iran: Velayati Receives European Union Delegation *[Tehran TV]* 58
Iran: Repercussions of U.S. Foreign Debt Discussed *[Tehran Radio]* 59
Iran: Official Cited on Production, U.S. 'Pressure' *[AL-SHA'B 29 Mar]* 59
Iran: Rafsanjani Congratulates Presidents of Sudan, Sierra Leone *[IRNA]* 60
Iran: Official Praises New Legislation on Free Trade Areas *[IRNA]* 61
Iran: Interior Ministry Official Cites Figures on Refugees *[Tehran TV]* 61

Nepal & Bhutan

Nepal: 'Mysterious Disease' Spreads in West *[IRNA]* 61

Pakistan

Pakistan: Altaf Group 'Terrorist' Killed in Encounter in Karachi *[Islamabad Radio]* 61
Pakistan: London Begins Monitoring MQM Chief's Activities *[KHABRAIN 2 Apr]* 61
Pakistan: MQM Head Urges People To Eliminate 'Tyrants' *[AMN 18 Mar]* 62

Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka: Information Sought on 12 LTTE Bombers; Alert Issued *[AFP]* 67
Sri Lanka: Troops Find More Bombs in Colombo *[AFP]* 68
Sri Lanka: Spokesman Reports 12 LTTE Rebels Killed in Jaffna *[Colombo International]* 68

Inter-Arab Affairs

Inter-Arab Affairs: Arab League Meeting To Discuss Israeli Nuclear Leak

NC0104190296 Cairo MENA in English 1745 GMT 1 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, April 1st (MENA)—The Arab League Council is to hold an emergency session next week at the permanent representatives level at a request of the state of Palestine to discuss the issue of nuclear leakage of Israeli Dimona reactor in Negev Desert.

The Palestinian memorandum circulated among Arab representatives said that the Israeli Dimona reactor has constituted a serious danger regarding Arab security, water and environment, especially its effects on the Palestinian people.

The memorandum referred to a secret document released on March 24 by the Israeli television which warned against the hazards of the reactor and the possibility that a nuclear catastrophe would happen if the region was hit by an earthquake.

Inter-Arab Affairs: Arab League Seeking Summit To Discuss Israeli 'Siege'

NC0204075296 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2038 GMT 1 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 1 Apr (MENA)—Ambassador Sa'id Kamal, Arab League assistant secretary general for Palestinian affairs, has stated that there is a united Arab stance on the Israeli siege on the Palestinian people.

He said in press statements today that the Arab League is hoping to convene an Arab summit involving the countries that are directly concerned with peace to look into the dangerous issue of the policy of collective punishment that the Israeli occupation authorities are applying against the Palestinian people in Gaza and the West Bank. He called for taking a group stance against the policy of stalling and delay the various tracks of the peace process.

Ambassador Sa'id Kamal clarified that the policy of closure and siege will remain in force over the self-rule areas, according to reports and information available to the Palestinian administration from inside the occupied territories and Israel itself, until after the Israeli elections. The pretext for this is the security situation and the upcoming elections in Israel, which have nothing to do with the peace process Israel embarked on with the Arab countries.

The Arab League assistant secretary general added that Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has entrusted the head of the League mission in New York, Ambassador Mahmud Abu-al-Nasr, to hold extensive contacts with the Arab group so that the group will hold contacts with the Security Council's permanent members to highlight the dangers of the policy of collective punishment, closure, and siege imposed on the Palestinian people, its direct threats to the peace process, and the possibility of the process failing. He said that 'Abd-al-Majid is currently holding contacts with UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali, the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the OAU, and the Nonaligned Movement on this issue.

Inter-Arab Affairs: Yemeni President, Arab League Chief Discuss Island Dispute

NC3003205896 Cairo MENA in English 2000 GMT 30 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, March 30—(MENA)—Visiting Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih met here today with Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid.

The Arab League chief told reporters after the meeting that he informed President Salih that the Arab League was keen that a peaceful settlement be reached for the Yemeni-Eritrean dispute over the Red Sea island of al-Hanish. 'Abd-al-Majid expressed support of the objective French mediation aimed at finding a peaceful solution for the Yemeni-Eritrean dispute.

The Arab League chief reiterated the League's thanks for Egypt and Ethiopia for their constructive efforts to settle the dispute between the two sisterly countries.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that he listened to the viewpoint of President Salih regarding Arab conditions in general and the situation in the Red Sea in particular. The League secretary general appealed to Yemen and Eritrea to respond to good offices exerted in this respect in order to maintain security and stability in the Red Sea region.

'Abd-al-Majid said that the settlement of disputes through peaceful means is recommended by the United Nations, the Organization of African Unity and the Arab League.

Palestinian Affairs

Palestinian Affairs: 'Arafat Adviser Reacts to Peres Referendum Proposal

JN0204144696 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 2 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Palestinian Authority criticized the latest proposal by Israeli Prime Minister

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Shim'on Peres regarding a referendum in Israel on a final peace agreement with the PLO and Peres' statements about his determination to keep Israeli settlements in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip intact. Meanwhile, Israel has continued its arrest campaigns within the ranks of the extremist factions that have claimed responsibility for a wave of bombings in Israel that has been going on since February. Details are contained in the following report:

Palestinian Authority President Yasir 'Arafat told reporters in Gaza today that this violates the agreements reached by the Palestinians and Israelis. Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, adviser to Yasir 'Arafat, discussed the Palestinian Authority's position with our radio.

[Begin Abu-Rudaynah recording] As you are aware, Israel has not yet put its agreements with the Arab sides to a public referendum. We do not know what prompted Peres to make such a proposal. The Oslo accord spelled out a framework for the final status talks. It did not attach any strings to it. We are surprised by this new condition, especially since it comes on the heels of a delay in the withdrawal from Hebron. This places new obstacles in the way of upholding the peace process.

We signed an agreement with the Israeli Government. It is our hope that the Israeli side will honor its commitments. The Declaration of Principles signed in Washington spelled out the mode and framework of the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations and how to proceed on this negotiating track. [end recording]

Peres announced that he will hold a public referendum on a final agreement with the Palestinians, which is supposed to be reached by May 1999, as provided for in the autonomy agreements. Negotiations in this regard are scheduled to start next month. In an interview with Radio Israel from Oman this morning, Peres said that the constants of the upcoming permanent peace agreement with the Palestinians are crystal clear. They are as follows: There will be no binational state, no transfer for the Palestinians, no Israeli control over another people, Jerusalem will remain Israel's capital, the Jordan Valley will be Israel's security border, and all settlements will remain intact, Peres said, indicating that this is all.

Peres had thus far declared that he supports keeping most settlers in the West Bank. He argued that they will be grouped in a string of settlements around Jerusalem, in the Jordan Valley, and in some West Bank areas close to Israel, with the understanding that these settlements will be annexed to Israel. Israeli sources pointed out that the statements by Peres, who is the leader of the Israeli Labor Party, are apparently aimed at winning votes in the general elections slated for late May.

In an editorial today, the Israeli newspaper YEDI'OT AHARONOT says: When he proposes a referendum, the prime minister is asking voters to vote for him, even though they might not be in full agreement with his methods and policies. He is telling them that they will have another chance to decide this issue.

Binyamin Netanyahu, leader of the opposition Likud Party, accused Peres of planning to abandon East Jerusalem to the Palestinians. Peres denied it.

In a separate development, the Israeli Army apprehended five Palestinians suspected of belonging to Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the Islamic Jihad Movement, four in the Hebron area, and one in the Ramallah area. Since the recent wave of suicide bombings, Israeli troops have apprehended about 700 Palestinians suspected of belonging to Hamas or Islamic Jihad. The Israeli authorities today banned a meeting scheduled to have been held at a Jerusalem hotel to discuss the losses sustained by the city as a result of the Israeli decision to deny Palestinians from the autonomous areas access to the city. A spokesman for Israeli Police Minister Moshe Shahal said that Shahal banned the meeting because it would have been held under the patronage of the Palestinian Authority. Israel believes that the Authority is not allowed to exercise any power outside the areas placed under its jurisdiction, in accordance with the autonomy agreements. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs: Council Speaker, Member Criticize Peres' Referendum Remarks

JN0304084096 Gaza Palestinian Broadcasting Corporation Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 2 Apr 96

[Announcer-read report over video]

[FBIS Translated Text] Palestinian Legislative Council Speaker Ahmad Quray', also known as Abu-'Ala', described as an internal issue hints made by Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres about conducting a referendum among the Israeli people ahead of signing the final agreement with the Palestinians. He added: However, this could make it possible for us to conduct a referendum among all the Palestinian people inside the Palestinian territories and in the diaspora before concluding any agreement with Israel.

In an interview with the Palestinian AL-AYYAM newspaper to be published tomorrow, Abu-'Ala' said that it is the right of both parties to deal with each other in an equal manner. He added: We do not have any objection. It is up to them to decide how to endorse agreements with the Palestinians. However, we will have to secure the approval of our people before reaching any agreement with Israel.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Regarding statements by Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres in which he said he prefers a Jordanian-Palestinian entity, Abu-'Ala' said: We are not accountable for the desires of Peres and his government. Our national plan is for an independent state with Jerusalem as its capital. Our relationship with Jordan will be, as stipulated by the Palestine National Council, a confederation between two states.

Abu-'Ala' said he was not yet officially informed that the structure of the new Palestinian cabinet will be presented to the Legislative Council scheduled to convene in Ramallah tomorrow.

Furayh Abu-Middayn, member of the Legislative Council, said Shim'on Peres' statements on conducting a referendum on any final agreement with the Palestinians is a blow to the peace process, which is undergoing a critical stage due to its suspension. Abu-Middayn said such statements will have a negative impact on the peace process and will prompt us to conduct a referendum on repealing some articles in the Palestinian National Charter and on concluding any agreement with Israel. Abu-Middayn said:

[Begin recording] [Abu-Middayn] The peace process itself is totally suspended now; there is no peace process. So, how can Mr. Peres forecast the future? We might reach a final agreement after three or four years. This is an obstruction. We can also say that we should abrogate the Palestinian National Charter only after conducting a popular referendum and not with the majority of the Palestine National Council. We can also say that there should be a referendum on the Oslo agreement. In fact, this placing of obstacles before the peace process by Mr. Peres is unacceptable, unjustifiable, and inconceivable. The peace process is totally suspended. The generals are controlling Israel. I am astonished that Peres raised such an issue at this time in particular.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr. Minister, what do you think of the Israeli practices against the students of Gaza Governorate who study in the West Bank governorates?

[Abu-Middayn] Regrettably, this revealed a racist aspect in the Israeli generals' way of thinking. I read in the newspapers that on the back of one student was written "to be transported to Gaza," as if he were a parcel or an inanimate object. This is racism. To ban students, particularly those from the Gaza Strip the majority of whom live in Zone A in Ramallah, from studying in Bi'r Zayt is unacceptable racism. It is about time the Israeli people wake up, because if the Palestinian people abandon the peace process there will be no peace in the Middle East. Peace agreements with Jordan, Egypt, and all Arab countries will be prone to collapse. The Middle East will not be tailored according to Peres' dreams if the Palestinian people do not attain all their rights, including their rights to a state, education, and to everything. I believe that what the Israeli generals are doing at this time is a crime against the Palestinian people. [end recording]

Palestinian Affairs: Ministry Says Peres' Remarks 'Unreasonable, Unobjective'

JN0304101796 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0900 GMT 3 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Information Ministry considers the Israeli prime minister's recent remarks on keeping the settlements in Palestinian governorates as unreasonable and unobjective, that they are designed to serve election purposes, and that they will cause extremism to grow among average Israelis.

In a statement today, the Ministry said that Peres' remarks contravene the land-for-peace principle and international legitimacy resolutions, and serve the desires of the extreme right, making the Palestinian territory and the final solution contingent on the election results.

The Ministry also criticized the Israeli statements that transform the basic Palestinian issues into Israeli election matters.

Palestinian Affairs: 'Arafat Arrives in Ramallah; Legislative Council Meets

JN0304102596 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0900 GMT 3 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] In the presence of President Yasir 'Arafat, the Palestinian Legislative Council continues its meetings which began in Ramallah today under Speaker Ahmad Quray'. The council will discuss a number of issues, particularly the political, economic, and security conditions in Palestine. It will review the minutes of the previous session and continue the formation of its committees. The council will discuss matters presented by council members related to Israeli's arbitrary measures, the expropriation of land, and expanding settlements.

'Arafat arrived from Gaza this morning at the meeting site in the Ministry of Education building in Ramallah. He was received by the ministers, the Ramallah-al-Birah Governor Mustafa al-Liftawi, police commanders, National Authority figures, and representatives of the national institutions and figures in the city.

The Legislative Council meeting will last two days.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Palestinian Affairs: Al-Qassam Leaflet Warns of 'Sea of Blood' in Gaza, West Bank

TA0204150796 Jerusalem JMCC PRESS SERVICE in English 1300 GMT 2 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A leaflet signed by the "Military Leadership of the 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam Brigades, the armed wing of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] in Palestine," warned the PA [Palestinian Authority] that its campaign against Hamas "will drown the Gaza Strip and West Bank into a sea of blood."

The source and authenticity of the leaflet could not be confirmed. The heading of the leaflet reads: "Curse a hateful Authority ruled by dictators; al-Qassam will remain like a mountain in the face of all the challenges; we will not negotiate with our enemy except with blood, bombs and bullets; the oppressed masses in our stolen land should rebel against all dictators; the gamble of 'Arafat and his dwarf henchmen to destroy al-Qassam is a gamble on a losing far-fetched hope".

Following are excerpts of the leaflet:

(Al-Qassam expresses its apprehension of the campaign) conducted by some of 'Arafat's authority apparatuses who diverged against the Islamic Movement in general and al-Qassam Brigades in particular. (This attack) has crossed the final red line (...) If 'Arafat's authority (the Zionist proxy authority) is not satisfied with imprisoning hundreds of our honorables in its prisons, raiding all charitable and educational institutions that have an Islamic tint to it and confiscating and sabotaging its properties [sentence as received]. It even conducted through its debased security apparatuses, particularly the epidemic (preventive) security apparatus — led by the treacherous dog of Israel... collaborator Muhammad Dahlan — the most savage methods of torture against the detained al-Qassam heroes, where their bodies were burned by whips and their hands and legs hanged of the ceilings of the new Zionists slaughter houses on the land of Gaza.

We, in al-Qassam Brigades, record these ugly Nazi crimes in front of the whole world, which are being conducted daily by the demolishing and destructive authority apparatuses. We, therefore, affirm the following:

First, al-Qassam Brigades will not be easy in setting up the harshest punishments on whoever launches a war against Hamas and al-Qassam (...)

Second, we declare our utter rejection to any political settlement with 'Arafat's authority, or conducting any dialogue with it as a result of the great crimes it has committed against the Islamic Movement members and institutions. We affirm that we will not reconsider this position until all such policies taken by the Authority against Hamas and al-Qassam Brigades are stopped and annulled; after the release of all the Islamic Movement detainees; and punishing those involved in torturing Hamas and al-Qassam — from the highest official to the smallest one. (...)

Third, we call upon all armed cells and all military branches working in the homeland under the banner of al-Qassam Brigades — with Engineer Yahya 'Ayyash Cells, the New Disciples — to strongly and firmly strike over the crimes conducted by 'Arafat's authority and its despicable oppression. This is in addition to the continuous Zionist crimes, by crossing over the weak security checkpoints and military blockades and continue the wonderful martyrdom operations and relighting the burning fire in the heart of the Zionist entity state.

Fourth, (...) to the Authority security apparatuses — and their Zionist masters — (we say) that al-Qassam Brigades is not a fragile organization that could be easily stricken and uprooted. What has been demolished of the al-Qassam building will be rebuilt in a short time.

Fifth, we call on the Palestinian people inside (the homeland) and in the diaspora to go out to the streets, organize demonstrations and rallies in protest of the dangerous violations and great crimes practiced by 'Arafat's authority against the Palestinian people (...)

Sixth, we are astonished by the frightful silence of most of the local and international human rights organizations towards the Authority's security apparatuses' violations of every human rights principle and concept.

Some of the corruption and collaboration symbols in the Authority formed a new secret apparatus specialized in fighting both Hamas and Jihad movements which reveals the greatness of the conspiracy which our people are subjected to (...)

Finally, we call upon all honorables in the Palestinian Authority, who expressed, secretly or publicly, their rejection to the recent measures practiced by the executers in the authority against the Islamic Movement members, to raise their voices high in order to deter the symbols of evil and corruption in the Authority. This is before a disaster takes place, when the crimes of those people and their dangerous practices will drown the Gaza Strip and the West Bank in a large sea of blood. [Signed] Military Leadership of 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam Brigades Military Branch of Hamas Movement in Palestine. Dated: 3 April 1996 [date as received]

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Palestinian Affairs: 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam Statement Urges More Suicide Attacks

NC0204132396 Paris AFP in English 1155 GMT 2 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jerusalem, April 2 (AFP)—The Palestinian radical group Hamas called Tuesday [2 April] for more suicide attacks against Israel until Yasir 'Arafat's Palestinian Authority (PA) halts a crackdown on Islamic militants.

"We urge all military groups operating in the homeland under the authority of 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam (the Hamas armed wing) to continue suicide operations and burn the heart of the Zionist state," an 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam statement said. "We will change our mind if the Authority stops treating our people like this," it added.

The armed fundamentalist group said it rejected any dialogue or reconciliation with 'Arafat's self-rule authority because of its "crimes" against Hamas. The PA launched a crackdown against the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) and the Islamic Jihad following a wave of suicide bombings by the two groups that left 62 dead in Israel between February 25 and March 4.

Hundreds of suspected militants and their supporters have been rounded up both by Palestinian police and the Israeli army in the Gaza Strip, West Bank and east Jerusalem.

"Those who strike at one of our fighters, one of our heroes, will pay the price daily. This price will be high and will be exacted sooner or later by the hand of 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam," the statement warned.

Palestinian Affairs: Official Warns of 'Coup' Against Authority

JN0204132196 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0410 GMT 2 Apr 96

[Telephone interview with al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, Palestinian presidency secretary general, by Basim Abu-Sumayyah on 2 April; place not given; from the "A New Day" news feature—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Abu-Sumayyah] As you know the incidents that took place in al-Najah University caused some confusion and negative reactions. How is the Palestinian National Authority [PNA] dealing with this issue, and how will it deal with similar incidents in the future?

['Abd al-Rahim] No doubt, what happened in al-Najah University is one of the many problems that the PNA has to deal with. Most prominent among these problems which put pressure on the PNA and on the brother president in particular are job opportunities, the closure imposed on us, Israel's failure to withdraw from Hebron, in addition to many other issues.

This problem is part of a plan to escalate confrontation with the PNA following the Hamas secret organ's failure to carry out its schemes represented in staging a coup against the PNA by orders from abroad. Of course the brother president ordered the formation of a committee to investigate the al-Najah University incidents. The committee members are trustworthy people who will forward a report to the president when they complete their work so that we can get a clear picture of the situation.

For my part, and for the part of the brothers in the PNA, headed by Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], we believe that universities have their won sanctity which must not be violated, particularly the universities that were bastions of support for the Palestinian legitimacy, the PLO, and the Palestinian leadership in foiling the creation of an alternative representative to the PLO — the attempts to create a replacement for the PLO.

We are awaiting the results which this committee will come up with in order to assess the situation accurately. Meanwhile, we are alert to attempts aimed at using some centers and institutes to further strain the situation and create problems for the PNA.

We have confidence in our universities, staff members, and students. However, we demand that, since we are no longer under occupation, these universities and the seminars that are conducted there should not be transformed into discussions of the legitimacy of martyrdom-seeking or any other operations. Such an issue should not be discussed at universities. The issues that ought to be discussed at universities are things related to student problems, curricula, and the problems that we know students suffer from, and all of us were students once. Universities should not be a place for discussing issues like the martyrdom-seeking operations and whether they are permissible or not by Islamic law.

[Abu-Sumayyah] Now that the regrettable has already taken place—and of course we hope that similar incidents will not occur in the future—what is required by students, organizations, and the Palestinian masses in the homeland?

['Abd al-Rahim] There are certain organizations, most prominent among which is Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], which shed false tears on violated freedom rights at the university. But they themselves have many times in the past violated the freedom rights of universities by using chains, daggers, and beatings. Therefore, they should not try to outdo us by talking more about democracy and freedom. We practiced

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

democracy through elections and they refused to take part in the democratic experience on the pretext that it is a result of the Oslo agreement and so on. This is untrue.

Therefore what is required from organizations, particularly those under the banner of the PLO and which participated in the PNA elections — both the Legislative Council elections and the presidency elections — is to be alert for some forces' attempts to use what happened as an excuse to talk others into joining them in their anti-PNA position. I would like to alert my young brothers in the Fatah Movement to watch out for these attempts. There is a coup attempt by orders from abroad against the PNA. There are also attempts by Hamas to prevent the PNA from reaching the West Bank. Therefore we decided to maintain the presence of the Palestinian leadership in the West Bank to make sure that this remains the only option.

If they have any complaint about the PNA, its practices and performance, they should submit reports to the only authority, the authority of all the people. Everybody, with the exception of Hamas and Islamic Jihad, recognizes that following the recent elections this authority became the authority of all the people. There is only one authority and one rifle. If there are excesses from al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim or others, they should report this to the PNA and to Brother Yasir 'Arafat. His door is never closed. I am the head of the presidential office and I know this. They should submit their complaints in the open. They can ask for a meeting with him and tell him: Old man, there have been excesses in this or that matter and we hope you will halt it. Abu-'Ammar serves all the Palestinian people and he has always proved that he makes the proper decision, meeting the demands and aspirations of our people.

Therefore, the organizations are asked to pacify the situation. These matters cannot be escalated so that we may be dragged into certain positions which the forces that have ulterior motives want us to be dragged into so they can realize their aims through these events. These organizations are also asked to report their complaints to the sole authority of the Palestinian people.

[Abu-Sumayyah] This is on the level of the organizations and groups. What about the Palestinian people?

['Abd-al-Rahim] We must be completely alert at this stage. The closure is very hard on all of us and the collective punishment policy, which is practiced against us, is also hard on us. Therefore, we must be united and cooperate to promote the Palestinian project and preserve the life of the newly born Palestinian entity.

[Abu-Sumayyah] Amid this closure, starvation, and collective punishment, Ramadan Shallah, the secretary general of the Islamic Jihad Movement in Lebanon, in an interview with the London magazine AL-WASAT yesterday threatened to escalate suicide attacks and assailed the PNA saying that the peace process will not succeed. What is the PNA answer to that?

['Abd-al-Rahim] The aim is clear; namely, to prevent the completion of the control, if that is the word, of the PNA over the West Bank. The proposed plan is a Palestinian state in Gaza and a division of labor in the West Bank. Thus, we must be alert to this subject. These forces that implement orders from abroad use just causes to realize unjust aims. The Palestinian people must be alert. If there are excesses, then we complain to the PNA, to the president, to the Ministry of Education, to the administrative officer, to the Palestinian Legislative Council. This is democracy.

A few days ago, a Hamas statement said: We have our laws, meaning they have their laws and the PNA has its laws. They want to apply their laws. What are their laws? Do we have two laws in the country? No. Therefore, Shallah says he will continue his operations. He receives orders from Iran and other capitals: Escalate your activities. Some brothers exploit martyrdom. You know our people love martyrdom — they have always been militant people. But we know the proverb which says that the road to hell is paved with good intentions. Therefore, we must be alert to attempts at escalating violent operations at this stage. The continuation of these operations put off the Israeli withdrawal from Hebron, led to a possible obstacle to starting the final status talks and prevented transforming areas B into areas A. The aim is not to change the balance of power. The aim is clear and flagrant; namely, prevent our reaching the West Bank, prevent complete Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank.

What happened following the recent operations? They dismembered the West Bank, they reoccupied the West Bank. Who benefits from this? Neither the Palestinian people nor the PNA benefits from this. The forces that support us on the Arab and international levels do not benefit from this. The only beneficiaries are those who prefer other options, those who do not want the settlement to continue and to bear fruit. They do not want a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital.

[Abu-Sumayyah] The talk about aborting the authority and preventing the peace process led us to what you mentioned regarding a secret Hamas organ. This was revealed after the confessions of the Hamas detainees. What is the role of this organ, what are its tasks?

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

['Abd-al-Rahim] There are so many tasks but they serve one purpose; namely, toppling the PNA, ending the Palestinian project, burying this Palestinian new-born entity. They announced this in the press. One of the leaders of this secret organization announced the aim and revealed the source of the orders. I am a democrat and I do not like to attack any Arab or non-Arab state but I say that the aim from outside is to prevent the Palestinian option of establishing an independent Palestinian state.

[Abu-Sumayyah] Then the beneficiaries are outside parties and therefore it is against the Palestinian interests. Thank you, Mr. 'Abd-al-Rahim.

['Abd-al-Rahim] Thank you, Basim.

Palestinian Affairs: 'Arafat Reportedly Seeking To Curb Qaddumi's Powers

TA0204164096 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 31 Mar 96 pp 1, 7

[Report by Mu'in Wafa'i]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Nicosia, QUDS PRESS — Reliably informed Palestinian sources said that President Yasir 'Arafat intends to adopt a series of measures aimed at curbing the powers of Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, who maintains a position opposed to the self-rule agreement and refuses to return to the self-rule areas.

The sources informed QUDS PRESS that President Yasir 'Arafat, who was dismayed at Qaddumi's absence from the recent meetings of the PLO Executive Committee and Fatah Central Committee, has worked out — in cooperation with a number of his aides — some ideas on dealing with Qaddumi, who exploits his important political status as the head of Palestinian diplomacy to hold meetings with senior Arab officials and tour some Arab countries. The latest tour, which he conducted this month, included Egypt, Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon.

The sources said that President 'Arafat intends to announce the appointment of Hani al-Hasan, Fatah Central Committee member and the third person in the movement after President Yasir 'Arafat and Qaddumi, as minister of international cooperation in the Palestinian Authority. Al-Hasan will be in charge of foreign affairs, which currently is the responsibility of Qaddumi by virtue of his position. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs: Hamas Asks Arab League To Halt PA 'Measures'

NC0204204496 Cairo MENA in English 1959 GMT 2 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Gaza, 2 Apr (MENA)—The Palestinian Hamas' [Islamic Resistance] Movement today sent an urgent memorandum to Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid to express deep concern over the measures adopted by the Palestinian National Authority [PA] against Hamas Movement.

The memorandum called upon the Arab League secretary general to intervene to put an end to the measures.

The memorandum listed the measures adopted by the Palestinian Authority against Hamas members over the last five weeks.

Palestinian Affairs: Al-Husayni Says Closure Israeli 'Act of Revenge'

NC0304121996 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1115 GMT 3 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 3 Apr (MENA)—Faysal al-Husayni, the Palestinian Authority official in charge of the Jerusalem file, stressed that the continuing closure of Palestinian territories accompanied by Israeli barbarism is not a security measure, as Israel alleges, but is primarily an act of revenge and the collective punishment of ordinary Palestinian citizens.

In an interview with the French-language weekly AL-AHRAM HEBDO published today, al-Husayni said: In the Oslo agreement, Israel promised to link Gaza and Jericho through a secure road that guarantees freedom of movement. It also promised not to close the territories. But these two promises were violated dozens of times. We have not received all the international financial aid we were promised and what we have received is not enough to cover the losses resulting from the closure of the Palestinian territories.

Al-Husayni added that the current unofficial negotiations on Jerusalem between Israeli and Palestinian college graduates are mere meetings. He said the aim is to present ideas that could be (?included) in the official negotiations over the holy city. He noted that the two sides agreed in these meetings that East Jerusalem is the Palestinians' capital. But they have not yet set a date for declaring it their capital and whether this should be done within 20 months or 20 years.

Al-Husayni expressed his belief that there is a need to immediately resume the negotiations on the final status of the Palestinian territories, that is, before the Israeli election, in accordance with the Oslo agreement. He said

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

he hopes the Labor Party will win the Israeli election, adding: The peace agreement was signed with this party. The situation might change if the Likud wins, because if it does we will need another five years to get to know each other. But he said: If the Likud wins, international pressure will compel it to opt for the peace course.

Asked his view of the proper solution for the Jerusalem issue, al-Husayni said: The best solution is to make the city an open one and the capital of the two states, to have freedom of movement for Israeli and Palestinian citizens inside and outside, and to erect observation posts at the city's entry and exit points so that the Israeli points would be in the western part and the Palestinian ones in the eastern part.

Al-Husayni said he expects the resolution of the Jerusalem issue to take a long time. He said: This issue requires concessions by both sides. No Palestinian state without Jerusalem can be envisioned.

Concluding his interview, he said: We should not forget that Jerusalem might one day become an important center in the Middle East. It could also turn into a black spot.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Algeria

Algeria: Organizations React to President's Call For Dialogue

LD0204153096 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 2 Apr

[Italicized passages recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Discussions on dialogue and consultation meetings, which the presidency has called for to begin on 6 April, reflect the president's determination to promote national dialogue and make the political groups bear their responsibilities as true national political forces. Our correspondent Djahida Khalfaoui this morning monitored some reactions to the new round of national dialogue, beginning with Sidi Abdelghafour of the Islamic Ennahda Movement.

[Abdelghafour] *The Islamic Ennahda Movement believes that the call made by the president includes positive points, such as stressing that responsible and constructive dialogue is the best way to resolve the crisis, regarding the presidential elections as a phase and not an end in itself, admitting that the crisis has not been resolved yet, and adhering to pluralistic democracy.*

The Islamic Ennahda Movement would like to see a sincere will to resolve the crisis through a prospective political practice that does not contradict these positive points, as was the case throughout the previous period of the crisis.

The movement calls for the need to open political and media opportunities to opposition activity and to express views, and calls for efforts by political partners to end the bloodshed and build constitutional institutions through honest, free, and pluralistic elections.

In principle, the movement's leader ['Abdallah Djaballah] *will attend the meeting with a view to submitting our views about getting out of the crisis.*

Here is the reaction of former Prime Minister [and leader of the Republican National Alliance] Redha Malek to the call for national dialogue.

[Malek] *As far as I am concerned, the issue revolves basically around the lessons to be learned from the* [presidential] *elections of 17 November of last year. The elections led to strong dynamism that could clear the air and create the necessary opportunities for a tremendous takeoff at the national political level.* [passage omitted]

Clarity in the political arena is a primary condition, particularly within the republican framework. This has given me the idea of a national pact, pacte nationale [previous words in French], *that would unite all the sides that condemn terrorism and adhere to the rules of the republic.*

On the Islamic Society Movement's [HAMAS] reaction to the call for dialogue, the movement's Vice President Abdelhedi Sayah, said:

[Sayah] *Since its inception, our movement has been calling for dialogue as an essential step toward resolving the Algerian multifaceted crisis — multifaceted in its political, economic, and social aspects.*

We had hoped that the aspirations of the masses who participated in elections... [pauses] *they called for peaceful solutions, and solutions in which the masses and the people could participate.*

We are saying that dialogue remains the essential solution for the Algerian crisis. The dialogue has to be comprehensive and include all the political sides without exception to reach an agreement on the minimum required for getting out of the crisis.

Regarding the participation or nonparticipation of the movement; this will be referred to the national executive bureau at its next meeting.

Algeria: Al-Nahdah's Djaballah on Prospects for Dialogue

MM0304105096 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 3 Apr 96 p 6

[Interview with Shaykh Abdallah Djaballah, leader of the Algerian Islamic al-Nahdah Movement, by Salah Jamil in London; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Jamil] Your movement is one of 11 political parties which have been invited by the Algerian presidency to a new round of dialogue. Have you accepted the invitation?

[Djaballah] As is known, our movement participated in all the previous rounds of national dialogue, and it expressed its view both clearly and openly on the crisis and ways of resolving it. When the regime insisted on imposing its view as regards the way to resolve the crisis, which was a view based on the use of force and the unilateral organization of elections, we rejected this view and refused to participate in the elections.

Public opinion has now become convinced of the soundness of our view and that of the national covenant group. The crisis is still there, and the security and economic situation continues to deteriorate. More voices are calling for a resumption of the dialogue in order to look for real solutions to the crisis, which has claimed nearly 60,000 lives. This is why we have accepted the invitation, and we will participate in the dialogue, but with a distinct view independent from that of the decisionmakers and those who have joined and supported them in the past. [passage omitted]

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

[Jamil] The Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] has not been invited. So what use is a dialogue without the FIS, which is a major party to the crisis and consequently should be a party to any solution?

[Djaballah] That issue was discussed in detail with the government. It was behind the failure of previous endeavors, because the main conflict in the country is actually between the government and the FIS. True, the complications of the conflict later came to affect most political parties and the various groups of Algerian society, but the FIS remains the main party in the equation. [passage omitted]

[Jamil] Maybe the regime believes that dealing with your movement and HAMAS [Islamic Society Movement] is sufficient and there is no need to deal with the FIS. What is your opinion?

[Djaballah] My opinion is that experience has proved that the legal disbandment of the FIS has not abolished its existence as a tendency on the national scene. We are among those who believe in others' right to differ, err, explore, develop, and innovate. We believe that applying such a mentality would guarantee moving toward a pluralistic democracy with all its implementation mechanisms and guarantees for compliance with it.

I say here that the crux of the dispute between the opposition and the government in Algeria is that some parties want to limit their mission to constantly condemning violence and granting credibility to the government's practices.

[Jamil] Will you convey specific proposals to the government at the expected meeting?

[Djaballah] We believe that the next dialogue should deal with issues capable of securing an agreement in principle, halting the bloodshed, and guaranteeing free, pluralistic, and honest elections next time. From my knowledge of the Algerian opposition scene I can say that most of the opposition parties are agreed on these points, especially as regards halting the bloodshed and guaranteeing free, pluralistic, and honest elections.

[Jamil] Do you intend, in coordination with the other opposition parties, to put forward an initiative to mediate between the government and the FIS?

[Djaballah] We have no such plan. However, we imagine that the issue will be raised with the government, and it will be given special attention in our next discussions. [passage omitted]

[Jamil] The talk about the legislative and municipal elections has begun. What are your movement's preparations for these elections?

[Djaballah] The al-Nahdah Movement is a movement of institutions. The institution responsible for making political decisions in that connection is the shura council. The council has not made its final political decision yet. However, it recommended in its recent session that preparations be made for the elections — which should be taken seriously by the movement's executive organ so as to make the necessary material, human, and moral preparations in order to successfully engage in that competition. [passage omitted]

Algeria: Djaballah on Pelletreau Backing for Dialogue

MM0304084396 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 2 Apr 96 p 4

[Unattributed report: "Shaykh Abdallah Djaballah, Leader of the Islamic al-Nahdah Movement, Tells AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI: Pelletreau Has Reaffirmed U.S. Support for Dialogue and National Reconciliation, Algeria's Debts Have Increased Enormously, and We Have Become the World Bank's Hostages"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London, AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI — Abdallah Djaballah, leader of the Algerian Islamic al-Nahdah movement, has said that the security situation in Algeria is still deteriorating, and that there is a media blackout aimed at suggesting the opposite and saying that the presidential elections have given good results.

In an interview with AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI, Djaballah said that the dialogue is wanted by all the parties and the people and said that he will accept the invitation to hold a dialogue, extended by the Algerian president to 45 figures, because it is the only way to restore peace and keep a promise made previously by the president after his election.

He expressed the hope that the next dialogue session will be more serious and that the sides will be aware of their full responsibility for all the suffering that has befallen the Algerian people. The focus should be on the issues which are likely to end the bloodshed and provide guarantees that the next elections will be fair and free.

Djaballah said that he was among those who met with U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Pelletreau during his visit to Algeria and said that he [Pelletreau] was impressed by the popular participation in the presidential elections and the president's statement after his investiture on resuming the dialogue for national reconciliation. The discussion which took place centered on the fact that, more than ever before, the prevailing situation is conducive to a dialogue with all the sides which reject

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

violence with a view to stopping the bloodshed and providing the necessary guarantees for the next elections.

From the meeting with Pelletreau, it seems that the United States has not altered its position and still supports the dialogue for national reconciliation. He [Djaballah] said that he raised four fundamental issues with the U.S. envoy, the first being the causes of the crisis, where two main factors were identified. The first was the suspension of the 1989 constitution which advocated pluralist democracy. The second was the predominance of the mentality of repression and exclusion in the authorities' policies and management of the crisis, which left the door wide open to extremely serious security, social, and economic collapses. For example, the number of dead has exceeded the 60,000 mark. According to official sources, the [national] debt rose from $26 billion in 1992 to $32 billion in 1995, while the citizens' purchasing power decreased by more than 200 percent, and income dropped from $3,000 a year in 1985 to $1,000 a year in 1995. According to IMF statistics, the number of those relying on social assistance has increased from 14 million in 1992 to 20 million in 1995, out of a total of 30 million. As the economy minister stated in his report to the transitional council in late 1995, the debt rescheduling had no visible impact.

The second issue is the presidency issue. [Djaballah said:] I said that whatever has been said about participation and the boycotters' positions, an objective political analysis makes us aware that the people participated because they wanted peace restored. This is an objective on which all the sides which either participated in or boycotted the presidential elections agree. It would be better if the presidency took advantage of this psychological predisposition to hold a dialogue as a response to the people's hopes with regard to participation in the elections.

The third issue is the position on violence. I said that all parties condemn violence, but that the difference is that some parties limit themselves to condemning violence and supporting the authorities' actions, while others (the national covenant group) believe that their task goes beyond condemnation to seeking peaceful political solutions which would uproot the causes of the crisis and provide all the conditions for restoring free and fair elections, whose results would win the people's approval and lead to establishing a stable government and guaranteeing political activities for all.

The fourth issue is the issue of the legislative elections. We said that the elections were and still are an essential prerequisite and that all conditions should be provided for achieving it, so that it effectively becomes a basic mechanism for guaranteeing pluralist democracy.

With regard to the upcoming dialogue, Djaballah said: The government's objective seems to be an attempt to find the conditions for organizing the legislative elections and completing the setting up of constitutional institutions, and it seems that it does have a plan to that effect. We believe that there is a positive element in it, provided that truth prevails when dealing with all the relevant issues such as calming the situation, ending the bloodshed, and providing the political, media, and legal guarantees for free and fair elections.

Djaballah believes that, so far, there have been no economic reforms. The authorities decided to reschedule their debts with the IMF in an atmosphere of chaos, disturbances, and lack of security and stability. They have closed the file of freeing prices and are about to open the file of privatizing institutions and the file of public service. The first file (freeing prices) caused social catastrophes and wiped out the middle class because of the exponential increase in the price of goods and the freezing of salaries, and because of the increase in the number of unemployed. According to the national office of statistics there were 1 million unemployed in 1992 while there are now 1.8 million. In two years, the [national] debt has risen to $32 billion, which means that debt servicing now swallows the whole GDP, forcing Algeria to resort to a third rescheduling. This increases political and economic dependence on the IMF.

We are aware of the seriousness of this matter and that is why we were against the authorities raising it and deciding on it. Any country that needs to reschedule must do it in an atmosphere of security and stability in order to encourage investment of domestic and foreign capital and set up medium and small firms to absorb the new unemployed labor force. What happened in Algeria was the opposite. The authorities rescheduled the debt while domestic and foreign investments were not encouraged because of the lack of security and stability. This is what prompts us to say that Algeria is standing on a huge social time bomb.

The situation that we mentioned earlier should make every patriot with a keen interest in his religion and people make an effort to ensure the success of the upcoming dialogue.

Algeria: FIS European Supporters Issue Newsletter

MS0104093096 Southall THE ENLIGHTENMENT in English 26 Mar 96

[Newsletter "publicizing the Islamic Struggle in Algeria," published by the Islamic Salvation Front "supporters in Europe"—quotation marks as received; double

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

parentheses denote source's use of brackets; received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Editorial:

Independent judiciary system and freedom of expression: the best prevention against injustice of rulers!

Praise be to Allah Who Says:"O you who believe! Stand out firmly for justice as witnesses to Allah, even as against yourselves, or your parents, or your kin, and whether it be (against) rich or poor: for Allah can best protect both. Follow not the lusts (of your hearts),lest you swerve, and if you distort (justice) or decline to do justice, verily Allah is well-acquainted will all you do" ((Koran surat An-Nissa S4:135)).

In many of the muslim countries of today, muslims have got only Allan to whom they can complain about injustice they have personally or collectively been subjected to from the rulers oppressive apparatus.

Independent judiciary system and freedom of expression are the best prevention against such abuse and more over they are both an intrinsic part of an Islamic social justice. These values have been put into practice during the golden age in terms of social justice, of Islam and are not of an utopian or demagogical nature. The Islamic History is not at all depleted of cases where the ruler is taken to court by ordinary muslim or non-muslim citizen. Ubayy bin Ka'b once took the Khalifa Umar Ibn Al-Khattab to court. This Khalifa had much much more than a "handful of sand" under his jurisdiction. There is also the case of the Khalifa Ali Ibn Abi Talib who took a Christian to court because he saw him selling his lost armour. Because of lack of evidence to prove that it is his property, the judge gave the decision in favour of the Christian and against the ruler. The ruler could not do anything further despite being sure that injustice in the absolute sense was done to him. As for the freedom of opinion, here is again Umar Ibn al-Khattab in a public meeting when a person stood up to criticise him and said: "O Umar, fear Allah." The audience tried to stop him (or to censor him in today's terminology) but Umar (may Allah be pleased with him) said: "Let him speak, he is free to give his opinion. If people do not give their opinions they are useless and if we (the rulers) do not listen to them, we are useless".

There is nothing wrong for the muslims to take those golden ages (in terms of social justice) as standards to be aimed at. Unfortunately today, muslims in general are looking to follow other societies which have much less injustice and where in some cases have reached a situation whereby freedom of expression has become powerful enough to even dismiss presidents of super-powers (and unfortunately their media are also able to make up presidents as well!).

Today, muslims are forbidden to speak their minds or to have access to information. Information of public domain nature are transferred to "State secret chapter" in order to keep citizens in darkness and to make them vulnerable to propaganda and manipulation in an environment of total monopoly on the media.

Loosing freedom of expression is indeed the first step in loosing freedom totally.

Algeria News and comments of the Week! — The "money printing machine" to the rescue of Mr Ouyahia!

These past few weeks have seen the military regime prime minister Mr Ouyahia wanting to cut down the workers wages for most part of this fiscal year and then retracting and asking for roughly 20 percent of his original demand. The workers unions have not reacted officially to the new plan. Many observers however were intrigued by the fact that Mr Ouyahia who implicitly has declared his urgent "cashflow" problem, did not mention from where he was going to bring the remaining 80 percent or so of the money. Their curiosity was rapidly satisfied when the military regime declared this week that it is going to put in circulation new not coins, but highest of the range notes bank (1000,5000,200,100 Algerian dinars).

The abuse of the "money printing machine" ("la planche a billets") has always been a handy solution for the regime to artificially "solve" its cashflow problems. When the use of the "money printing machine" is done under strict independent control, it gives raise to budget deficit. When it is done quietly under the supervision of a designated and restricted unaccountable club called "the money council" particularly when all real economical indexes are in the "infrared", the operation becomes a negative perturbation of the market. The government is "creating on paper" wealth that does not have any concrete equivalence in terms of increase in the production of goods and services. What would the workers reaction be when, after being relieved at first knowing that their wages are safe, they will then face the automatically induced increase in inflation caused by the supplementary monetary mass in circulation.

It is needless to ask why the Junta parliament members do not make transparency about this important problem which directly affects the spending power of the citizens. Or why they do not stop playing "The good old days of Staline's central committee meeting" by unanimously adopting Mr Ouyahia "program" as they did last week.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

US assistant secretary of state visite to Algeria!

The US assistant secretary of state for Northern Africa, Robert Pelletreau has undergone a two days visite to Algeria and has delivered a letter from President Clinton to Gen. Zeroual. Mr Pelletreau has declared: "Dialogue and democratic progress seem essential for the reestablishment of stability, and I appreciated President Zeroual's reaffirmation of his intent to move in that direction." He also said: "As the policy develops and begins to show results, we are prepared to broaden our support for it."

Appointment of a "Mediator of the Republic"!

General Zeroual has named the 71 years old Abdesselem Habbachi as "mediator of the republic". Mr Habbachi was amongst the 22 signatories of the 1st November 1954 declaration which has set the beginning of the armed struggle against the French occupation. Mr Habbachi retired from all political activities in 1964. He was called back in 1995 to head the election commission set up during the elections of Gen. Zeroual on the 16 November.

By hearing the word "mediator" following the above declarations, many news agencies have "jumped" to the conclusion that Mr Habbachi job will be to mediate between the antagonists in the Algerian conflict. the military regime however made it clear via its official media that the prerogatives of "mediator of the republic" was clarified by the constitution and is basically a sort of an appeal organism that the citizens can address their cases to when all of the administration doors have been knock at. Mr Habbachi's function does not however include matters of State security or foreign affairs. This early hours Mujaheed for example can not in principle deal with the following cases of injustice: The kidnapping of the FIS president, Dr Abbassi Madani, his unjust trial and jail sentence. Mr Habbachi surely knows that Dr Abbassi Madani is also a first hour Mujaheed more precisely a first minute Mujaheed since he was not one minute late on that 1st of November 1954 at exactly zero hour in a military operation aimed at the national TV and radio station RTA. The kidnapping of the FIS vice-president Ali Belhadj, his unjust trial and jail sentence. Mr Habbachi surely knows that Ali Belhadj is a son of a Martyr (Incha Allah). Ali Belhadj's father was killed with those "Musabiline" (the volunteers for death) whose mission was to carry arms to the Mujahedeen inside the country trough the high voltage and well guarded electrified lines at the Tunisia/Algeria borders called "la ligne Challes". It was at a time when the percentage of the "Musabiline" who succeed in cutting through the borders, was not greater than ten percent. This was under the leadership of colonel Mohamedi Said before such suicidal operations were stopped by the new general head of staff colonel Houari Boumedien and the route via Mali became operative. Ali Belhadj, despite his relatively young age (born in 1956), has been in all of Algeria post-independence high security prisons. He has known the military regime prison since 1983 and been in the following jails: Serkadji, Lambese, Berouaghia. Tizi Ouzou, El Harrach. Ouargla...You name it he has "received a medal" in it. So far Ali Belhadj has spent one in every four days of his life in the military regime prisons and he has not give up his principle of saying the truth and loudly no mater the consequences. Mr Habbachi also knows about the four years jail without trial of the president of the provisional executive bureau of the FIS, the son of a Mujaheed officer in the glorious ALN, Abdelkader Hachani whose only "crime" was to take the FIS to the electoral victory of December 1991. This "crime" does not deserve fifty (50) months of isolation confinement under any set of law.

Mr Habbachi also knows that the above three and many many more have been unjustly deprived of their basic human rights in 1991 and 1992 by military generals known as "les officiers de l'armee Francaise" meaning officers who were in the French army side during a significant period of the armed conflict.

Freedom of speech in Algeria: Not for tomorrow!

The military regime interior minister have decided for the third week in a row that the Algerian people will not read what the newspaper "LA NATION" has to say to the nation. According to this dictator afraid of words even coming from non Islamist and non-FIS journalists, the articles contained in the three issues, praise "terrorism". It is needless to say that "LA NATION" does not have any sort of appeal against the military regime interior minister and that this later can intervene before "a crime" is perpetrated and stop actions of others with all financial loss caused to them. So in Algeria this unelected dictator has full unchallenged power to tell the Algerian people what to read and what not to!

When is Justice coming to Algeria?

The military regime via its media has announced a long list of state companies managers accused of corruption. An investigation organism specialised in corruption affairs was set up under the name of "la cours des compts" some ten years ago. This "agency" was in fact used by "dignitaries" of the regime as a political weapon to "knock down" their opponents from the same Nomenklatura. So was the case of former army general secretary Lt-Gen Beloucif who was relaxed by Gen. Zeroual after having done the fourth of his

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

sentence. He was accused by his colleagues, the military Generals of having stolen billions from Algerian public fund. The new targeted managers could well be guilty but what is unjust and a "bit fishy" about it is that they have been already "find guilty" as far as the public opinion is concerned and this, before going even going to court. The military regime media has presented them as "already" guilty despite the clear constitutional article about presumption of innocence. The monopolistic public media have been closed in the faces of those whose name have been tarnished. Algerian people are allowed to hear only one well engineered sound! When is Justice coming to Algeria?

Egypt

Egypt: U.S. Defense Secretary Perry Arrives; Military Talks Begin

NC0304115896 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1120 GMT 3 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 3 Apr (MENA) — The Egyptian-U.S. military talks were held at the Defense Ministry headquarters today in Cairo. The Egyptian side of the talks was chaired by Field Marshal Muhammad Husayn Tantawi, commander in chief of the Armed Forces and minister of defense and war production, and the U.S. side by Secretary of Defense William Perry.

The talks focused on various aspects of military relations between the two countries and how to develop these relations in the interest of the two countries.

The U.S. secretary of defense was given an official reception upon his arrival at the Defense Ministry where the national anthems of Egypt and the United States were played. Perry also inspected the honor guard that was lined up to salute him.

Egypt: Mubarak Receives U.S. Defense Secretary

NC0304090596 Cairo MENA in English
0840 GMT 3 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, 3 April (MENA) — Today, President Husni Mubarak received U.S. Secretary of Defense William Perry in Cairo.

Minister of Defense Field Marshal Muhammad Husayn Tantawi and the U.S. ambassador to Egypt attended the meeting.

Egypt: Mubarak Returns From Syrian Visit

NC0204182996 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1710 GMT 2 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 2 Apr (MENA)—With God's care, President Husni Mubarak and the delegation accompanying him returned home at the end of a short visit to Syria. During the visit, President Mubarak held talks with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad on several current issues. [passage omitted]

Egypt: Papers Comment on Importance of Mubarak's Visit to Syria

NC0304074196 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0600 GMT 3 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 3 Apr (MENA) — AL-AHRAM and AL-JUMHURIYAH underline in their editorials today the importance of President Husni Mubarak's short visit to Damascus yesterday and his talks with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad.

AL-AHRAM writes that these talks were part of Egypt's contacts at the Arab and international levels to serve the Arab issues and were part of the permanent coordination between Cairo and Damascus, the two countries that represent the two main poles in the region's events.

It notes the strenuous efforts made by the two countries to establish a comprehensive, just, and lasting peace in the region and free it from the dangers it is facing as a result of the Israeli nuclear program.

In a similar editorial, AL-JUMHURIYAH writes that the Egyptian-Syrian summit was held this time under the shadow of many changes threatening the peace process following the suicidal explosions in Israel, the suspension of the Syrian-Israeli negotiations, and the siege imposed by Tel Aviv on the Palestinians.

It adds that the summit was held to explore new forms of negotiations between the Arabs and Israel in order to ensure the continuation of the peace process and its resumption on new grounds. It says that the summit was timely and was held by the leaders of two countries who enjoy a very unique relationship.

Egypt: Tunisian Prime Minister Arrives for Committee Meetings

NC0204202896 Cairo MENA in Arabic
2000 GMT 2 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 2 Apr (MENA)— Tunisian Prime Minister Dr. Hamed Karoui arrived in Cairo this evening for a visit of several days.

During the visit, he will lead his country's delegation at meetings of the Higher Egyptian-Tunisian Joint Committee due to begin tomorrow morning.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Egypt: Ethiopian Envoy Concludes Visit, Departs

NC0304084896 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0805 GMT 3 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 3 Apr (MENA) — Ambassador Isis Singor [name as received], envoy of Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi, left Cairo this morning following a several day visit during which she was received by President Husni Mubarak. [passage omitted]

Egypt: Arrested MB Members Detained for 15 Days, Charged

NC0304055696 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2245 GMT 2 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 2 Apr (MENA) — Today, Counselor Hisham Saraya, attorney general at the Higher State Security Prosecution Office, ordered the detention of the 12 Muslim Brotherhood [MB] members for 15 days pending completion of the investigations on them by the Prosecution Office.

Several charges were made against the defendants including that of joining an illegal group whose objective is to prevent constitutional establishments from performing their work. They were also charged with the possession of publications that propagate the ideas of the MB whose activities are banned.

Egypt: Files on Detained Muslim Brotherhood Members Detailed

NC0304074796 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2230 GMT 2 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 2 Apr (MENA)—The State Security Intelligence Service today arrested 12 leading members of an organization of the dissolved Muslim Brotherhood who were involved in numerous operations to bombard the country with antigovernment propaganda and cause disturbances and instability through coordination with the organization's leadership abroad, most notably in London. An Interior Ministry statement said the members were arrested when the State Security Intelligence Service stormed their hideouts in the Governorates of Cairo, al-Jizah, al-Daqahliyah, al-Gharbiyah, Suez, al-Fayyum, and Bani Suwayf. The members are Muhammad Mahdi 'Uthman 'Akif, Abu-al-'Ala Madi Abu-al-'Ala, Mahmud 'Ali Abu-Riyyah, Hasan Judah 'Abd-al-Hafiz, 'Abd-al-Hamid Hasan al-Ghazali, Jamal 'Abd-al-Hadi Mas'ud, Muhammad Ibrahim Badawi, Mahmud Ahmad al-'Arini, 'Isam 'Abd-al-Halim Hashish, Mustafa Tahir al-Ghunaymi, Majdi al-Faruq Anwar Mahmud, and 'Abd-al-'Azim 'Abd-al-Majid al-Maghribi.

The State Security Intelligence Service pinpointed organization leaders who belong to the higher ranks of the dissolved Brotherhood's guidance bureau and shura council as well as the Brotherhood's geographic formations in the governorates. The monitoring operations by the Security Intelligence Services extended to the figures and channels of contact between the dissolved Brotherhood leadership at home and its organizational wings internationally. These extend as far as the United States, Canada, Jordan, Kuwait, Yemen, Sudan, Tunisia, and Algeria—the Brotherhood's international organization.

The State Security Services also specified the dimensions of the organization's plans to set up training camps and develop practical and physical training programs for their youth cadres. These programs are based on the concepts of extremism and antigovernment propaganda through their leaderships abroad.

Leading Brotherhood figure Muhammad Mahdi 'Uthman 'Akif, who is a member of the organization's guidance bureau and shura council, is considered one of the most prominent pillars of the Brotherhood's international organization. He was formerly responsible for this organization in West Europe through his position as head of the Islamic Center in Munich.

He was previously sentenced to death in criminal case number 3694/54. The sentence was then reduced to life with hard labor. He was pardoned in 1974 as part of a general pardon.

Leading Brotherhood figure Abu-al-'Ala Madi Abu-al-'Ala is a freelance engineer, assistant secretary general of the General Engineers Association. He is one of the most prominent Brotherhood cadres. He was among the members of al-Jihad in al-Minya. Along with many Brotherhood members, he has taken part in numerous attacks on policemen, foreign tourists, and the imams of the Awqaf Ministry in the following cases: criminal case number 5346/79 in al-Minya, criminal case number 2873/80 in Markaz Samalut, and criminal case number 1055/80 in al-Minya.

Leading Brotherhood figure 'Abd-al-'Azim 'Abd-al-Majid al-Maghribi was placed under house arrest in view of his health until such time as he can be interrogated at home. The prosecution has been informed of this. Al-Maghribi is a member of the organization's general shura council. He was sentenced to two years in prison in the Higher State Security's case number 12/65, the case involving the big Brotherhood conspiracy to topple the regime in Egypt by force.

Investigations and detective work also revealed that leading figure Mahmud 'Ali Abu-Riyyah, a retiree, is

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

another member of the shura council. He was sentenced to life with hard labor in Higher State Security case number 113/54, another case involving the Brotherhood conspiracy to topple the regime in Egypt by force.

As for leading figure Hasan Judah 'Abd-al-Hafiz, a retired employee, he is the chairman of the board of directors of the Islamic Call Society in Bani Suwayf, a Muslim Brotherhood society. He is also a member of the organization's general shura council, the person responsible for Bani Suwayf Governorate, and a member of the general guidance bureau in the organization's structure.

The others are as follows: Jamal 'Abd-al-Hadi Muhammad Mas'ud, a former professor at al-Azhar University and a member of the Brotherhood's general shura council.

Muhammad Ibrahim 'Abd-al-Fattah Badawi, a retiree, a member of the Brotherhood's general shura council, the person responsible for the central Cairo sector, and head of the administrative office within the organization's structure.

Mahmud Ahmad 'Umar al-'Arini, retiree, a member of the Brotherhood's general shura council and of the central students section in the organization's infrastructure.

'Isam 'Abd-al-Halim Ibrahim Hashish, assistant professor at the Cairo engineering college, a member of the organization's shura council in al-Jizah Governorate, and member of the organization's central engineers committee.

Physician Mustafa Tahir 'Ali al-Ghunaymi, a member of the shura council in al-Gharbiyah Governorate and member of the skilled workers section of the organization's structure.

Majdi al-Faruq Anwar Mahmud, engineer and member of the organization's shura council in al-Fayyum Governorate. He is in jail in connection with another Brotherhood case.

A raid on the organization's centers in the governorates resulted in the seizure of the following:

—secret organizational papers and documents, including an important organizational document showing the extent of the relationship between the Brotherhood organization and the representatives of the so-called al-Wasat Party, which is being established; the relationship between the "parent" Brotherhood organization in Egypt and the international organization's branches abroad; and the names of branch leaders, members, and liaison figures between the two sides, their tasks, and their organizational responsibilities.

—documents that confirm the organizational links between the leaders of the dissolved Brotherhood at home and their counterparts in Jordan; the dates of meetings between the two organizations' representatives; the extent of the Brotherhood organization in the United States and its officials in its various states; the extension of this movement to Canada and some Western countries; the Brotherhood's relationship with various extremist groups, especially the Islamic Group and al-Jihad; the plan to form the Brotherhood women's organization; the organization's objectives and policies; and the members' tasks and organizational activities.

The seized papers and documents included the organization's plan to introduce extremist ideas into the various stages of education and to control the official propagation centers, especially al-Azhar and religious societies and charities. The documents included a detailed study of the organization's plans to avoid security blows to its structures and the names of members tasked with implementing this plan and the means of contacting local and international human rights organizations, especially Amnesty International, to prompt them to adopt the Brotherhood stances.

The documents included numerous pamphlets of incitement, organizational papers, details of funds in local and foreign currencies, computers, video and cassette tapes, bank transactions, account numbers, and deposits in banks totalling worth over 0.5 million pounds.

State bodies, in the past few days, pinpointed the suspicious plan, its objectives, and the extent of the involvement of the organization's leaders in preparing and planning its implementation at home and abroad. It was through this plan that an attempt was made to reorganize Brotherhood cadres and revive extremist activities to overcome the results of successive security blows that targeted the organization's leaders and members in criminal cases No. 8 and 11 for 1995.

State bodies also monitored the contacts held by the Brotherhood to coordinate with the various extremist terrorist groups, especially the organizations called the Islamic Group and al-Jihad in their capacity as an extension of the old military wing of the Brotherhood organization, in an attempt to regain control of professional associations, local councils, and mosques.

Investigations held by the State Security Intelligence Service revealed that the organization's members' objectives were to revive religious societies and charities, cover up the dissolved organization's secret activities by forming a new political front, prepare plans to infiltrate every stage of education to plant extremist concepts in the minds of students, prepare plans for inciting the masses by distributing provocative pamphlets

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

to create unease and panic among the masses, form a Brotherhood women's organization to carry out specific tasks inside women's circles so as to propagate extremist ideas through prepared programs, arrange funds to finance Brotherhood activities and actions inside the country through its leaders and organizational branches abroad, and implement this plan.

The defendants were referred to the Higher State Security Prosecution Office for investigation.

Egypt: Paper Attacks Israeli 'Practices,' U.S.-Israeli Agreement

NC0304074096 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0608 GMT 3 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 3 Apr (MENA) — AL-WAFD has reiterated its denunciation of the arbitrary Israeli practices against the Palestinian people, stressing that these barbaric practices are totally inconsistent with the desire to establish the just and comprehensive peace in the region.

It says that public opinion in Egypt is dismayed by this U.S. silence over these practices and dismayed still further by the strategic agreement between Israel and the United States whose signing is imminent.

The paper, publication of the opposition Wafd Party, was commenting in its editorial today, Wednesday [3 April], on the agreement and on the talks to be held by U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry who arrived in Cairo yesterday.

The paper describes these talks as important, not only because they will deal with bilateral relations and joint exercises, but also because they come when times are very harsh.

Concluding its editorial, the paper stresses that the strategic agreement between Israel and the United States is an obstacle to peace and will only increase Israel's barbarity toward the Palestinians.

Libya

Libya: Unity Committee Reacts to Peres Visit to Oman, Qatar

LD0204212296 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 2 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] A source at the General People's Committee for Unity was astonished at the statements related to the Arab League secretary general on the visit by the terrorist Peres, prime minister and minister of war of the Israeli enemy, to Oman and Qatar.

The source has said in a statement to the JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY that it is unlikely that Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, with all the pan-Arab and establishment values which he and the Arab League represent, had welcomed Qatar and Oman's receiving the terrorist Peres with what this means in terms of violating the Arab charters and agreements concluded within the Arab League and risking the Arab nation's security and future at the hands of the Israelis and their allies.

The source concluded that the Arab League's responsibilities are clear and specific with regard to the preservation of the elements of Arab security and the consolidation of the foundations of Arab existence, and that its resolutions are clear in this respect.

Sudan

Sudan: MENA Reports Student Demonstrations in Khartoum

NC0204172996 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1650 GMT 2 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Khartoum, 2 Apr (MENA)— A huge number of student demonstrators set out from Khartoum University this evening and proceeded to the center of the Sudanese capital Khartoum, urging the masses to join in overthrowing the regime of the ruling Islamic National Front in Sudan. The student demonstrations are continuing and being joined by a number of Sudanese citizens. The demonstrators went to the Khartoum branch of Cairo University, which the Sudanese authorities seized two years ago and renamed the Two Niles University.

The militia of the ruling regime, assisted by Islamist students, confronted the demonstrators with stones and swords. The militia also attacked the students inside the Khartoum University campus.

Movement has come to a standstill in Khartoum, which is surrounded by the militia of the ruling regime. Buses and cars have disappeared from the streets and students escaping from the clashes are leaving for their homes on foot. [passage omitted]

Sudan: Taha Urges Ethiopia To Review Stance Toward Sudan

EA0304083896 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 2 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The acting foreign minister, Mr. Ali Uthman Muhammad Taha, has declared that Sudan has entered a new phase in all fields. Addressing a press conference at the ministry this afternoon attended by media heads and the acting minister of culture and information, Mr. 'Abd-al-Basit Sabdarat, his excellency

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

said the president's swearing-in speech before the National Assembly yesterday had touched on aspects of Sudan's foreign policy reflecting a determination that [foreign] relations in the new phase should be steered toward a positive horizon. [passage omitted]

On relations between Sudan and Ethiopia, the minister said the current stance [of Ethiopia] was unjustifiable and unjust to Sudan. He called on the Ethiopian leaders to review their stance.

The foreign minister announced that Sudan had delivered a protest note to Ethiopia over its treacherous aggression on Pachala and [Khawr] Yabus and its military support for the rebel movement in the area. [passage omitted]

Sudan: Al-Turabi Urges Mubarak To Accept Sudanese 'Efforts'

EA0204222996 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1715 GMT 2 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] SUNA 2 April — The speaker of the National Assembly, Dr. Hasan Abdullah al-Turabi, has called on Egyptian President Husni Mubarak to respond positively to the calls and efforts being made to improve relations between Sudan and Egypt. He reiterated his condemnation of terrorism and the attempt to assassinate President Mubarak in Addis Ababa in June last year. He denied that Sudan was in any way linked to the incident.

In an interview for the London-based THE INDEPENDENT held following his election as speaker of the National Assembly, Dr. al-Turabi said the many strategic links between Sudan and Egypt, such as neighborliness, water, Arabism, and joint security, made it imperative for the two countries to cooperate in ending their disputes peacefully and in improving their bilateral relations on a lasting basis in the interests of their fraternal peoples. He said frank and brotherly discussions between the leaders of the two countries were all that would be needed to resolve all existing problems and to restore normalcy.

Sudan: Ministry Wants Mubarak Case in Ethiopia Tried 'Openly'

EA0204165096 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 2 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Foreign Ministry has issued the following statement:

News agencies have reported that the Ethiopian authorities have begun to try in camera the three Egyptians suspected of involvement in the attempt to assassinate President Husni Mubarak in Addis Ababa in June 1995. A group of Ethiopians are also accused. Inasmuch as the Ethiopian authorities earlier sought to incriminate Sudan, even before putting the suspects on trial, Sudan demands that this trial be conducted openly and for the Sudanese Embassy [staff] in Addis Ababa to be allowed to attend it. This is because Ethiopia has made Sudan party to the issue and levelled false accusations against it.

The Ethiopian authorities must also allow international news agencies to attend the trial, as well as all other parties wishing to attend.

While demanding that the trial be conducted openly, Sudan also calls on the international community to bring pressure to bear on Ethiopia to ensure that this goal is achieved, and to refrain from accepting from Ethiopia any pretext or justification for holding the trial in camera. The Foreign Ministry wishes to stress that insistence on the part of Ethiopia to conduct the trial on camera will not serve to guarantee the objectivity and transparency.

Sudan: Envoy—UN Moving Toward Restrictions on Diplomats

EA0204134396 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1730 GMT 1 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Khartoum, 1 April — Answering questions put to him by journalists regarding UN Resolution 1044, Sudan's ambassador to the United States, Mr. Mahdi Ibrahim, has said that the UN is set to go beyond economic, military, and aviation sanctions, toward measures that would restrict the movement of diplomats in its arena and that of others.

He said: I personally believe that a move in this direction would not be correct since diplomacy is the [word indistinct] that governs relations, overcomes difficulties, and builds contacts between states, especially in the modern world. [passage omitted]

Sudan: Government Reportedly Studying Antiterrorism Measures

EA0204221696 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 2 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The acting foreign minister, Mr. Ali Uthman Muhammad [Taha], has stressed that Sudan rejects the principle of imposing sanctions on it, be they light or otherwise, inasmuch as doing so has no basis in law or justice. He said: We have gone beyond talk about economic sanctions. He pointed out that Sudan was determined to overcome the sanctions being presented now. [sentence as heard]

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Addressing a press conference at the Foreign Ministry today, the acting foreign minister said that Sudan rejected terrorism and all forms of violence because of its Islamic principles and cultural heritage, which is based on peaceful coexistence. He said steps had been taken in this regard and that the ministry was currently studying various means of cooperating with states, particularly on combating terrorism, with Sudan eventually joining them. He said Sudan had approved three of these means and referred to the measures taken since last July regarding entry and exit regulations and a review of residence permits for foreigners in Sudan. [passage omitted]

Tunisia

Tunisia: Prime Minister on Human Rights, Population, Libyan 'Crisis'

NC0404055596 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1100 GMT 2 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Tunis, 2 Apr (MENA)—Tunisian Prime Minister Dr. Hamed Karoui said that convening the meetings of the Joint Tunisian-Egyptian Higher Committee in Tunis or Cairo reflects the desire of Presidents Husni Mubarak and Zine El Abidine Ben Ali to raise Egyptian-Tunisian relations to the highest level possible and bolster bilateral cooperation.

Karoui said in an interview with the MENA correspondent in Tunis, Muhammad Sayf, that relations between presidents Mubarak and Ben Ali are distinguished because of the constant dialogue, mutual appreciation, and cordiality proceeding from their firm desire to strengthen the bridges of cooperation, bonds of closeness, and integration between the two fraternal countries. They also want to strengthen their two peoples' aspirations for progress, prosperity, and a better future. [passage omitted]

Regarding Tunisian efforts to lift the air siege imposed on Libya because of the Lockerbie incident, Karoui said that ever since the crisis started, Tunisia has been exerting efforts to end the conflict between fraternal Libya and the concerned western countries.

In this regard, he noted initiatives and contacts the Tunisian president held to find an honorable solution that preserves Libya's sovereignty, responds to the requirements of international legitimacy, and averts the danger of tension and escalation in the Maghreb region. [passage omitted]

On political pluralism in Tunisia, Dr. Hamed Karoui said that it is a tangible reality today, reflected in the presence of opposition parties that are freely active. He highlighted Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali's continuous meetings with the leaders of the opposition parties and the presence of representatives from opposition parties in parliament. The opposition parties also participate in all advisory bodies, national meetings, and seminars. He noted that recently, the law for elections in the governorates was amended to give the opposition a better chance to get seats in parliament.

Karoui clarified that the newly established opposition parties need some time to expand their bases and bolster their roots.

On the phenomenon of terrorism, which hides behind religion, Dr. Hamed Karoui stated that there is no place for trading with religion and using it to spread chaos and dissension. Tunisia has succeeded in uprooting the alien phenomena of terrorism and extremism. It has relied on the law in this regard, since it is the major reference and decision factor.

He said that Tunisia considers the phenomenon of extremism and terrorism a strange phenomenon in Arab and Islamic societies. He added that terrorism distorts Islam and hampers the march of progress and prosperity.

Karoui added that Tunisia does not spare any effort toward cooperation with all the brothers and friends, in order to confront all forms of terrorism and entrench the bases of security and stability. He pointed out that Tunisia and Egypt are joined by the common denominators of desire for cooperation in the interest of the peoples, stability, and strength.

Karoui noted that despite difficult international economic circumstances and increasing challenges, Tunisia has managed to realize a noticeable growth rate of 5 percent annually. It also managed to raise the income of individuals by 3 percent per annum. Tunisia has managed to control demographic growth so that it does not exceed the current population growth rate of 1.7 percent. In addition, Tunisia managed to control inflation rates, preserve the financial balance, control the budget deficit, increase exports, as well as improve deficit indicators. The services on foreign debts have stabilized at around 18 percent of current revenue. [passage omitted]

On the human rights situation in Tunisia, Karoui avowed that protecting human rights in the new Tunisia is a firm and immovable principle, stemming from the firm conviction of the Tunisian leadership, which has turned human beings into the focus, launching pad, and objective of change.

The Tunisian prime minister contended that the clamor some people are creating, including those who are expert at making statements and trading in human rights, is nothing more than false allegations and are not based on anything objective. They are refuted by the reality of Tunisian citizens. He also pointed out that some

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

people do not like to see Tunisia make progress and be successful, despite its humble resources. They also do not like to see it adhere to its independence and freedom of decision.

Tunisia: Al-Nahdah Chief Wants 'Democratic Islamic Regime'

BR0204124496 Milan CORRIERE DELLA SERA in Italian 2 Apr 96 p 6

[Unattributed report: Fundamentalist Threat Remote in Tunis"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Tunis — How distant the Islamic fundamentalist threat seems in Tunisia, which is so close to us. It is unusual to see veiled women in the streets, and the few that you do see are old, and those bearded young men in long traditional robes — an aid to instant recognition — have disappeared entirely. The leaders of the new Islamic movement are either in exile or in prison, while activists still at liberty survive in hiding, in the knowledge that this is not a propitious time for a violent action in which they would inevitably be the losers, since repression has fragmented the sufficiently well structured and united Islamic "cells." Al-Nahdah (Rebirth), the currently outlawed fundamentalist movement that gained 15 percent of the votes in the 1989 general election, and its armed wing, "Vanguard of Sacrifice," are waiting for a more favorable situation.

"They look to Algeria," we were told by Kamel, a young university student who is no supporter of the government. "If the fundamentalists of the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] in Algiers manage to initiate a dialogue with the military regime after the presidential elections and a political agreement, a compromise, is reached, you can expect al-Nahdah to return to prominence. It all depends on Algeria, at least in the short term. The Tunisian Government cannot shut the door in the fundamentalists' face if Algiers pursues a policy of openness toward the FIS oppositionists." [passage omitted]

People in Tunis remain convinced that the fundamentalists have never seriously considered submitting to the democratic rules and believe that al-Nahdah means political terrorism. Al-Nahdah's response is that Islam can be reconciled with democracy and pluralism. Its leader, Ghannouchi is anxious to explain that Tunisian fundamentalists, while still clinging to traditions, do not intend to forego pursuing a tolerant model of society different from the experiments conducted in Iran, Pakistan, and Sudan. He speaks in terms of "a democratic Islamic regime based on free elections," because he is convinced that "economic and political liberalism can very well coexist with Islam." We cannot know whether these sheep-like arguments conceal wolves. Ghannouchi said in an interview that if his movement gains power, it is in favor of maintaining some of the social gains of the nonconfessional and "modernist" Tunisia of Burghiba, such as the abolition of polygamy, Arab-French bilingualism, coeducation, and birth control. [passage omitted]

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Kuwait

Kuwait: Assembly Discussions Conditions for Restoration of Ties

LD0204154096 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1412 GMT 2 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Kuwait, 2 Apr — The National Assembly today referred to the assembly's foreign affairs committee a request from members for debates on restoration of diplomatic relations with the countries that had supported the Iraqi aggression.

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, first deputy prime minister and foreign minister, said at the assembly's meeting that the amir's recent speech had defined what Kuwait wanted from Jordan and other states that had backed Iraq: They should support the UN Security Council resolutions. He stressed that Jordan had now gone beyond this, and was seeking a change to the current Iraqi regime, and said: the enemy of our enemy is our friend; no one will enter Kuwait without official permission for a visit or for work.

This came during debates by the assembly from a request tabled by a number of deputies asking for clarifications on the government's policy regarding restoration of relations with the countries that had supported Iraq in its aggression against Kuwait. The debates took place today. [passage omitted]

In this context, the first deputy prime minister and foreign minister affirmed that Kuwait would establish relations with Israel only after the realization of a just and comprehensive peace on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks. Replying to the deputies who oppose restorations of diplomatic relations with Jordan, he said: what is Kuwait and what is the size of Kuwait; Kuwait wants to make friends, not enemies. The foreign minister also stressed that Kuwait had not broken off diplomatic relations with the countries that had backed Iraq in its aggression against Kuwait, and the Kuwaiti embassies were still active in these countries. [passage omitted]

Kuwait: Deputy Assembly Speaker Rejects Ties to 'Pro-Iraq' States

JN0304071096 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 25 Mar 96 pp 1, 8

["Special" report to ARAB TIMES by Mahmud 'Abd-al-Qadir]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kuwait city, March 24: Assembly Deputy Speaker Salah al-Fadalah said on Sunday [24 March] he is totally opposed to government moves to reconcile and mend ties with pro-Iraqi Arab states which sympathised with the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait.

He told reporters during a press conference on Sunday that the government is not cooperating with parliament, and that it has side-stepped parliament in taking the decision to restore ties with pro-Iraqi states.

He said the government of Kuwait is being pressured to reconcile with Arab states which were sympathetic to the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait.

Al-Fadalah said Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, was the mirror image of Saddam Husayn. "The Yemeni President did not become a ruler through a democratic system or through popular demand. A person like him attained power over his people through force," he continued.

He said the Arab world was destined to have leaders like 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, "As Arab people, we are shouldering the mistakes of those politicians," he lamented.

The deputy flayed statements by Salih during a recent interview with Al-Watan daily. he said the Kuwaiti people had reacted with great anger to Salih's statements, and added the interview reflected the Yemeni regime's hatred for Kuwait and its people.

"The Yemeni president is an exact replica of Saddam Husayn. The proof of this is when 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih took over southern Yemen under the identical slogan of 'returning the branch to its origin', he went on.

"Our dispute is with the Yemeni regime, and not with its people. Many Yemeni citizens were born and bred in Kuwait and were noted for their honesty and good manners," he said.

He added that only Yemeni citizens among the other 120 nationalities residing in Kuwait were granted Interior Ministry permission of self-sponsorship without the need for Kuwaitis.

Al-Fadalah said Kuwait's contributions to Yemen included setting up of four hospitals in South Yemen, in addition to six poly-clinics and a number of sizeable projects including a public library, a center for administrative development, and a residential complex. Other projects were 78 primary, intermediate and secondary schools, an educational center and many other projects in both Yemens.

"Despite these generous contributions, unfortunately Yemen and its UN delegate have opposed Security Council resolutions and tried to obstruct them."

He said Kuwaitis strongly believed they did not need reconciliation with North Yemen, especially under the leadership of the current ruling president.

Replying to Salih's statements that Yemen would exert efforts to try and gain the safe release of Kuwaiti POWs,

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

al-Fadalah said that indeed, some of the POWs had been arrested by Yemeni and Palestinian soldiers during the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait.

Al-Fadalah added that he was strongly against mending ties with other pro-Iraqi states, such as Jordan and Tunisia, despite government steps in that direction.

He emphasized that even if fences between Kuwait and Arab states sympathetic to the Iraqi occupation were mended at the government level. Kuwaiti citizens would never forget the stand taken by those countries. He said the majority of Jordan's people hardboured hatred towards the people of Kuwait.

He said the government had adopted a lone stand in mending fences with pro-Iraq states, which he claimed it had done under duress.

Al-Fadalah said he personally rejects adjourning Assembly discussions related to the restoration of ties with pro-Iraqi states, because the issue "must be discussed in the open so that Kuwaiti citizens can understand the truth behind these states."

Responding to a question on whether the parliament and government have jointly prepared a relations-restoring strategy. He said he had not personally entered with the government into any negotiations on the issue and that the government had not taken an initiative in this regard.

He said the government was uncooperative in this aspect.

Kuwait: Solon Voices 'Surprise' at Being Barred From Egypt, May Sue

MM0104143396 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 31 Mar 96 pp 1, 4

[Report by Ghunaym Muhammad al-Mutayri in Kuwait and 'Abd-al-Latif Ghunaym in Cairo: "Kuwaiti Deputy Refused Entry to Egypt and Turned Back at the Airport"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Egyptian authorities at Cairo International Airport refused to let Kuwaiti National Assembly Deputy Mubarak al-Duwaylah enter Egypt. Al-Duwaylah, who left Cairo airport for Jeddah after being refused entry by the Egyptian authorities, said: "I still do not know why the Egyptian authorities refused to let me enter."

In a telephone conversation from Jeddah, he told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: "In my discussion with the airport officials, no accusation was leveled at me, bearing in mind that I had obtained a three-month entry visa from the Egyptian Embassy in Kuwait. I should have been told that I was not welcome."

Al-Duwaylah said: "Our relations with Egypt are special, and the Egyptians are not ungrateful for our positions toward them." He added: "Such treatment is not compatible with Egypt's place in our hearts. We are entitled to know, because, if the reasons are known, then there is no room for surprise or recrimination."

Al-Duwaylah said that he intends to sue the Egyptian Embassy for granting him an entry visa which caused him problems and humiliation.

The security authorities at Cairo airport have refused to comment on refusing al-Duwaylah entry to Egypt, despite the fact that he had obtained an entry visa from the Egyptian Embassy in Kuwait and the fact that, according to him, the airport security authorities did not accuse him of anything.

An official at the passport department at the airport told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: "I know nothing about this matter," while an airport security official said: "I have no information that such an incident has occurred."

Al-Duwaylah did not link the fact that he was refused entry to Egypt to his relations with the Muslim Brotherhood there, and said: "Many Muslim Brotherhood leaders in Kuwait have visited Egypt recently and were not given the treatment I was given. Among those who visited Egypt recently was Deputy Isma'il al-Shatti and Deputy Khalid al-'Adwah, a prominent Islamic figure who visited Egypt many times recently and was not subjected to the same treatment."

Al-Duwaylah expressed his surprise at the decision to refuse him entry, saying: "My political position in the Kuwaiti National Assembly is testimony to my heartfelt feelings toward Egypt's people and government, since I was one of the signatories of the Kuwaiti National Assembly's statement condemning the assassination attempt on Egyptian President Husni Mubarak. I am one of the National assembly deputies who approved the cancellation of Egypt's $3 billion debts."

Al-Duwaylah said that he had been invited by the Kuwaiti Students Union in Egypt to give a lecture in Cairo on the role of the Kuwaiti National Assembly.

He said that, following the decision to refuse him entry, a letter on his behalf will be read today at the students union's meeting.

Meanwhile Mustafa Abu-Shunayf, Egypt's ambassador to Kuwait, commented to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT on the Egyptian authorities' refusal to allow Deputy al-Duwaylah to enter Egypt and said: "I have no information on the reasons for not allowing Deputy Mubarak al-Duwaylah to enter. This measure is an isolated case."

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

The Egyptian ambassador confirmed that the Egyptian Embassy in Kuwait had granted the visa entry to Egypt, praised the special relations between Kuwait and Egypt, and said that the relations are developing further in the interests of the two sisterly countries.

The Egyptian ambassador ruled out that this incident would mar Kuwaiti-Egyptian relations, saying that "no bearer of burdens can bear the burden of another." [Koranic verse]

Most Kuwaiti National Assembly deputies have refused to comment on the measures taken by the Egyptian authorities toward their colleague Mubarak al-Duwaylah until his return when they can hear his account of what happened to him at Cairo airport.

Qatar

Qatar: Foreign Minister on Ties to Israel, Peres' Visit

NC0204194296 London MBC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 2 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] In an interview with MBC, Qatari Foreign Minister Shaykh Hamad Bin-Jasim Bin-Jabr Al Thani emphasized that economic and political normalization between Qatar and Israel is contingent on achieving comprehensive peace in the Middle East. The Qatari minister gave an interview to colleague Nashwah Ruwayni in Doha.

[Begin recording] [Al Thani] Once there is a complete and comprehensive peace between the Arabs and Israelis, we should expect to pay a price for this. The price is the existence of normal relations between Israel and the Arabs. Economic ties are important today, in all spheres, between any two states. These days all states...[pauses] whether politics or others serve economic aspects.

As regards economics, we know that the Israelis give it great importance and so should we. At the same time, there should be an incentive for the Israelis, but this incentive must not be given unless other tracks with Arab countries are complete.

[Ruwayni] How do you assess Peres' visit to Doha today?

[Al Thani] I believe that Peres' visit was successful. He listened to His Highness' talk about the Syrian and Lebanese tracks, the situation in the Palestinian territories, and the Palestinian people's current suffering. Mr. Peres promised to adopt serious measures in this respect, other than the measures already adopted in the past days, to facilitate this process. He is under pressure, we must realize. But at the same time, there is pressure on the Palestinian side, therefore, both sides must try to surpass this situation, especially the blockade. [end recording]

Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia: Satellite Dishes 'Officially Forbidden'

MS0304084096 London THE GUARDIAN in English 3 Apr 96 p 14

[David Hirst report: "Satellites Evade Saudi Censors"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Riyadh — In its archaic Islamic self, the Saudi kingdom still labours under a censorship its super-modern self is rendering outdated. It now has 300,000 officially forbidden, unofficially tolerated, satellite dishes. So anyone who wanted to will by now have seen this week's BBC PANORAMA film on "one of the world's most brutal regimes".

Naturally, the Islamist opposition had a special interest. As targets of official repression, the Islamists appreciate the programme's international resonance, especially since Mohammed al-Mas'ari made London the headquarters of his Committee for the Defence of Legitimate Rights (CDLR), of which his father, Abdullah, is still titular head.

These are people whose moral imperatives it would be difficult, on casual acquaintance at least, to impugn. Yet one wonders whether, if the fundamentalist dissidents replaced the no-less-fundamentalist rulers, their interpretation of Islam would be any less reprehensible.

The Islamists insist that Shariah law rights mean something akin to universal concepts of human rights. Yet they concede that in the ideal Islamic state there would be restrictions on basic political and civil liberties.

As one put it, there would be "total freedom — but within an Islamic framework". There would be "free" elections to a parliament, but no freedom to participate for Saudi liberals, who believe a modern state cannot be based exclusively on the Koran and the Shariah.

These are people who agree that women are, as the Koran says, "a degree" beneath men, but argue that this does not mean they are unequal; or that while Islam does not outlaw the driving of cars, Saudi women must not do so. They approve of death or lashes for adultery, and of public beheadings.

For them it cannot be the Shariah that is imperfect, only the Muslims who apply it. They instantly agree that, however imperfect their own rulers, they hardly compare in brutality with the Muslim rulers of Iran, Iraq, Syria, Libya, or even Egypt.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

For them, it is not beheadings that are scandalous: there were 191 of them last year, for rape, drug and alcohol trafficking, adultery, witchcraft, murder and armed robbery.

The real scandal is that none of the kingdom's 10,000 princes is ever executed because judges are not empowered to summon members of the ruling family.

There were no "political" executions last year, and the regime contends — debatably — that there never have been. But a CDLR supporter was sentenced to death for the attempted murder by acid of an interior ministry official. The sentence was called ta'zeer — punishment deliberately disproportionate to the crime so as to deter others. "We think he was murdered in prison," said an Islamist, "because the family never saw the body, or received his last will and testament."

But there are many political prisoners, including three of the five founding members of the CDLR and Islamists who share its basic outlook. Members of Mr al-Mas'ari's family detained after he fled to London have been released.

Most prisoners are never brought to trial, and the price of release is a signed statement promising not to discuss government policies or communicate with anyone outside the country — such as Mr al-Mas'ari himself — by phone or fax. But last year one man did get a five-year sentence for possessing CDLR leaflets, and another got three years for attending meetings.

Political prisoners are held in al-Hair jail south of Riyadh. Prince Nayif, the interior minister, permits no visits by human rights monitors, and responds to no inquiries about inmates. He sometimes says that "thanks to Shariah, we respect human rights more than the Western states that criticise us".

The truth probably isn't as bad as the Western media often suppose — thanks partly to attitudes such as Prince Nayifs. The US State Department calls al-Hair and other prisons high quality institutions, with air-conditioning, good nutrition and regular exercise. A recent prisoner said: "The first month was the worst, when they were interrogating me. I cannot say I was badly tortured, though I heard of others who suffered much worse."

After his release he saw Crown Prince Abdullah and Prince Salman, governor of Riyadh; but they would not grant him an exit visa. Asked whether he could imagine President Saddam receiving his victims, he asked why the West compared Saudis leaders with other Muslim rulers. Like all Saudi fundamentalists he ended up taking the Christian West as his model.

United Arab Emirates

United Arab Emirates: Diplomatic Relations Established With Mongolia

JN0104093996 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0735 GMT 1 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Abu Dhabi, 1 Apr (WAKH)— The governments of the United Arab Emirates [UAE] and Mongolia decided to establish diplomatic relations at ambassadors level as of 1 April 1996.

A joint statement issued in Abu Dhabi and Ulan Bator today said that the decision to establish relations stems from a mutual desire to bolster friendly relations and promote bilateral cooperation.

The EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY said that so far the UAE has diplomatic relations with 135 states.

Yemen

Yemen: Speaker on Saudi-Yemeni Border Issues

MM0204115196 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 1 Apr 96 p 4

[Interview with Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin Husayn al-Ahmar, speaker of the Yemeni House of Representatives and leader of the Yemeni Reform Grouping, by Hasin al-Bunyan in Sanaa on 31 March]

[FBIS Translated Text] [al-Bunyan] Has the date been set for the second meeting of the Higher Joint Saudi-Yemeni Committee and Prince Sultan's visit to Sanaa?

[Al-Ahmar] Contacts are being held between the two sides. We wanted Prince Sultan to decide on a suitable date, and we believe it will be at the end of this month.

[Al-Bunyan] How do you view Prince Sultan's visit to Sanaa?

[Al-Ahmar] All Yemenis look forward to Prince Sultan's visit and attach a great deal of importance to it, beyond his presence and participation in the Higher Joint Committee's routine meetings, because we believe that Prince Sultan's presence among us in Sanaa is a great opportunity and a significant step that augurs well for the future of brotherly and neighborly relations between our two countries and peoples.

[Al-Bunyan] Have you already prepared the visit's program?

[Al-Ahmar] Certainly, the program for Prince Sultan's visit will be special and will not be limited to participating in the Higher Joint Committee meetings.

[Al-Bunyan] What will the program be?

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

[Al-Ahmar] We have advised Prince Sultan that we have left it up to him to decide on what program he wants. We are prepared to fulfill the prince's wishes.

[Al-Bunyan] You recall that when you were in Riyadh last December, Prince Sultan told you that he wishes to visit Ta'izz because he likes the city's climate.

[Al-Ahmar] That is true, and we shall let Prince Sultan have his wish in visiting Ta'izz and everything he wants.

[Al-Bunyan] It has been a year and two months since the joint memorandum of understanding was signed. So far the two sides have not reached a final agreement on settling the border demarcation between them. How do you explain this delay?

[Al-Ahmar] Work is now going ahead on schedule in the border areas previously demarcated in the al-Ta'if treaty.

[Al-Bunyan] However, it seems that there are disagreements over defining the border points?

[Al-Ahmar] No. They are simple technical disagreements that both sides are trying to settle with good and genuine intentions on both sides.

[Al-Bunyan] It has been rumored that there are disagreements over measures to demarcate the remaining borders of former South Yemen, which were not demarcated in the al-Ta'if treaty.

[Al-Ahmar] There is still disagreement on this, because there was no agreement on the details of border demarcation from Jabal al-Tha'r in the east to the borders with the Sultanate of Oman. This delay in completing this important stage in the border demarcation process between the two countries was caused, as I said, by the fact that we had no previous agreement to demarcate these borders. Had we agreed, we would have completed this task. However the two countries' joint committee is now trying to agree on a framework, a mechanism, and measures governing the demarcation process, and the meetings are continuing.

[Al-Bunyan] Does this mean that they have not yet started to agree on defining the measures to demarcate the remaining borders?

[Al-Ahmar] No, they have not started, not until the two sides agree on the measures governing the demarcation process.

[Al-Bunyan] Generally, how do you assess the work of the border committee?

[Al-Ahmar] We expect that the committees will hopefully complete their work as soon as possible. However, we believe that they are performing their task normally. This does not mean that they have not achieved their objectives, but we believe that they have completed a significant part of their task. We look forward to the completion of what we all want and hope for. Incidentally, I am always aware of Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz's interest and keenness to iron out any difficulties or obstacles facing the committees. He is making concrete efforts to serve the common interests, out of his obvious keenness to boost the friendly and neighborly relations and contacts between the two countries' leaderships and peoples.

[Al-Bunyan] Shaykh 'Abdallah, you previously said that that you are prepared to visit Kuwait. It has been a long while, and we have not heard anything about this visit. Is the intention still there?

[Al-Ahmar] Frankly, there must be desire on both sides and not just on one side. The other side is neither forthcoming nor enthusiastic because in this case the situation is not encouraging.

[Al-Bunyan] Does this mean that you still wish to visit Kuwait?

[Al-Ahmar] Yes, I do, and I have often said it. I am prepared to visit Kuwait in any way that the brothers want, be it official, private, or parliamentary.

[Al-Bunyan] At any time?

[Al-Ahmar] Any time, even on the day of the 'Id.

[Al-Bunyan] Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi has called for an Arab summit to be held at Arab League headquarters to restore unity in Arab ranks. Do you support these endeavors?

[Al-Ahmar] We called for an Arab summit before Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi did. We believe that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, under the leadership of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, is the Arab country qualified to play a vital role in calling for or even hosting this summit, because we believe that Saudi Arabia is better suited to perform this role of clearing the air between Arabs, healing the rift, and restoring harmony and unity to Arab ranks.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Iraq: UN Chief Said 'Optimistic' on Success of Oil-for-Food Talks

JN0204191196 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 2 Apr 96

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali said today he is optimistic that the forthcoming dialogue between Iraq and the United Nations on 8 April in New York will succeed.

In a news conference in Seoul, Butrus-Ghali said: I hope we can resolve the problems and implement the resolution on oil for food and the basic needs of the Iraqi people. He noted that there are positive opportunities to arrive at a solution.

At the conclusion of a four-day visit to South Korea, the UN secretary general said his talks with Iraqi Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf in Beijing last week were constructive.

Iraq: Foreign Ministry Denies Iranian 'Allegations' on 'Spies'

JN0304140096 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1158 GMT 3 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 3 Apr (INA)—A spokesman for the Foreign Ministry denied the Iranian regime's allegations that its intelligence agencies arrested 89 people suspected of spying for Iraq in Iran within the past 12 months.

In a statement to INA here today, the spokesman said that Iraq categorically denies these Iranian allegations carried by news agencies on 1 April, citing statements by the Iranian minister of intelligence and security. The spokesman asserted Iraq's firm and principled stand on non-interference in the internal affairs of others.

The spokesman went on to say: We express our astonishment at the timing of these fabricated reports which coincides with the anti-Iraq rabid campaign staged by the hostile mass media. This campaign seeks to foil talks currently underway between Iraq and the United Nations on trading oil for food, drugs, and the basic needs of the Iraqi people. We strongly condemn these allegations which are floated by certain circles within the ruling body in Iran. These allegations seek to harm Iraq and raise doubts vis-a-vis its sincere calls for resolving pending problems between the two countries and establishing normal relations based on mutual respect and non-interference in each other's domestic affairs.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman added: We are totally convinced that involving Iraq's name in this affair is an exposed attempt to distract the Iranian public opinion away from the realities of the Iranian situation and the suppression and humiliation which the Iranian peoples are experiencing.

Concluding his statement, the spokesman said: If accusing the United States of exercising espionage and sabotage against Iran can be justified, then there is no justification whatsoever for leveling accusations against Iraq, which deeply believes that the best relations should be established with all countries, particularly the neighboring ones, and that the sovereignty and national options of these countries should be respected.

Iraq: 'Scores' of Youths Reportedly Arrested Before Saddam Visit

JN0204171096 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1215 GMT 2 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The special security, intelligence, and emergency forces of the regime conducted arbitrary searches and stormed the houses of the citizens in the holy cities of al-Najaf and Karbala' over the past few days. They also arrested scores of youths to pave the way for the tyrant's theatrical visit to the two cities.

Our informed sources said these terrorist-like and extremely harsh measures were intended to protect the life of the head of the 'Aflaqites regime, which shelled holy shrines with its artillery and tanks during the 1991 uprising and killed or displaced thousands of citizens from Karbala' and al-Najaf after destroying or burning hundreds of houses. This in addition to the painful results of the mother of calamities [reference to the Mother of Battles], during which Iraqi cities were bombed and shelled with warplanes and modern missiles.

The same sources added that the Baghdad ruler arrived in al-Najaf and Karbala' amid crowds of mercenaries and pretended to be praying at the tombs of the righteous imams, peace be upon them. The behavior of the Saddamist henchmen expressed panic over the life of the hypocrite Saddam.

The henchmen who protect the tyrant arrived in the area several days before the visit. They stripped the toady 'Aflaqites in Karbala' and al-Najaf of their weapons and prevented them from getting close to the tyrant's motorcade.

Iraq: Al-Da'wah Party Leader Previews Damascus Opposition Meeting

MM0204132196 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 2 Apr 96 p 4

[Report by Ibrahim Humaydi: "Islamic al-Da'wah Party Says on Eve of Opposition Meeting in Damascus:

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Iraqi National Congress Has Not Achieved Aim of its Existence"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Damascus —Shaykh Muhammad al-Asifi, leader of the [Iraqi opposition] Islamic al-Da'wah Party, has stressed that the "consultation meeting" to be held by the Iraqi opposition in Damascus today "complements" the opposition's previous conferences. He said that despite its huge resources, the Unified Iraqi National Congress [UINC] "has failed to achieve the aim of its existence, as it has been addressing the outside world rather than the people who are suffering from the Iraqi regime."

Al-Asifi told AL-HAYAH that "Iraq is besieged by a political cordon working to bring about change." He said that "the main problem" facing the opposition is "how to forge a basic understanding and a unified view among the parties to this cordon in order to secure a single policy for change."

He added: "The work we have carried out as opposition is substantial, extensive, and has had great effects. The Iraqi regime has never experienced conditions as difficult as current conditions. It is besieged internally, internationally, and regionally." He said that these are reasons for holding the opposition's meeting. "We feel that these are the best conditions for making a move to establish a political plan to strengthen the opposition's efforts and action in the country — a plan designed to exploit the contradictions inside the regime with a view to replacing it."

He did not deny the influence of the Iranian officials' talks with the Syrians and the Jordanian move as regards the call for the meeting. However, he said: "Numerous meetings have been held in various places. This meeting is nothing new. It proceeds from the previous meetings." He said that the meetings are not designed to confront the Jordanian plan, "and we will not adopt a negative position toward it. The meeting is not directed against any [other] meetings. Its task is to look for a unified plan that would unite all opposition parties and secure the elements of political and movement action inside and outside the country in order to topple Saddam — a positive effort which is better than any negative effort aimed at confronting other plans."

He pointed out that participants will not start "from square one. They are seeking to build on previous meetings. Our plan complements previous plans." He pointed to the existence of weak points in the opposition's previous conferences, saying that "the UINC has not been able to achieve the aim of its existence, despite its huge resources. It has not been able to mobilize ordinary Iraqis. And it has no direct influence over the people, tribes, Islamists, or the Army. It has been addressing the outside world rather than the people who are suffering."

He added that the Jordanian position "contains weak points, including Iraq's partition into federations. Because the Iraqi people would like to see their country unified, and the Sunnah, Shi'ah, Arabs, and Kurds would like to live as one family. Iraqis believe that a federation would in the long term serve Israel's aim of weakening the current political situation and partitioning [Iraq] into small political entities." He said that Iraq's neighbors "believe in the need for change, and Iraq is besieged by a political cordon working to bring about change." He said that that "is not the problem. The main problem is how to secure a unified understanding and view among the parties to this cordon in order to arrive at a single policy for change."

He stressed that the opposition wants to tell neighboring states that "this (Iraqi) regime cannot survive. It has lost all elements of survival. The alternative that will come to achieve security for the region will emanate from the people's will."

Concluding, he said: "The gathering of 11 opposition forces in Damascus is aimed at conducting field action. We do not want to design the political situation for Iraq's future, but, rather, to prepare and exploit conditions to serve the change. The main pivot is field action, that is all." [passage omitted]

Iraq: Liquid Gas Production Increases 50 Percent

96LH0162B Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 13 Feb 96 p 4

[Article: "Southern Oil Achieves 50 Percent Increase in Liquid Gas Production"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Southern Gas Company has achieved a 50-percent increase in liquid gas production compared with the first half of last year (1995). Average production is now 2,100 tons per day. The company's director general, [Rafid] al-Dabbuni, told AL-JUMHURIYAH that the company, relying on its technical expertise, has continued to look for an alternative material for the emulsion smasher [kasir al-Istihlab]. This material is obtained with hard currency. He confirmed the company's initiative to manufacture and use this material. He added that the company had completed laying the 18-inch pipeline to supply the magnesium oxide and fertilizer plants with gas. It has also completed the crude oil pipeline network, in addition to the coastal pipeline project and the development of the main gas compressor in the central compressed gas station.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Iraq: Ministry of Industry Reports on Electricity

96LH0144D Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 3 Feb 96 p 4

[Article by Miryam al-'Atiyah: "Electricity Transformers Plant Expanded Through Direct Implementation"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad—For the first time, cadres of the Ministry of Industry and Minerals have completed a project to enlarge the power transformers plant in Al-Qadisiyah Public Organization for Electrical Industries through direct implementation and with national expertise and intrinsic capabilities. This was announced by an official ministry source who has said that the plan's designed capacity will amount to 200 transformers annually, each with a capacity of 95 MVE and a transformation rate of 132/KE. These transformers are used in high pressure power generation plants because of the country's dire need for them. The source added that this project, which has cost more than 85 million dinars to implement, will open new manufacturing and developmental horizons for this kind of goods which are scarcely produced in the Middle East region. Moreover, this kind of project is important for utilization of the manpower and the manufacturing materials available at the organization.

Iraq: Oil Refinery Establishment Reports Activity

96LH0144C Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 3 Feb 96 p 4

[Article by Hiyam Ahmad: "Twenty Million Dinars Saved as Result of Maintenance of 342 Idle Pumps"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad—The Public Oil Refining Establishment in the central region has managed to manufacture numerous spare instruments that are important to keep pumps, compressors, and other equipment working, thus realizing savings of 3,397,416 dinars [D] as a result of this effort. Kamil Ja'far al-Fatli, the establishment director, has told AL-JUMHURIYAH that the establishment has carried out a major campaign to overhaul idle pumps and rotary equipment. A total of 342 pumps have been maintained, thus producing savings of nearly D20 million. Moreover, a number of other pieces of equipment have also been maintained, producing savings of D2,735,079. Al-Fatli added that maintenance work has been carried out for 15 broken buses that transport establishment personnel, thus saving nearly D7 million.

Iraq: Maintenance of Oil Pipelines Reported

96LH0144G Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 4 Feb 96 p 4

[Article by Hiyam Ahmad: "Maintenance of Oil Pipelines in Northern and Southern Iraq"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad—The Public Oil Pipelines Establishment has completed the maintenance of thousands of valves of various sizes and pressures throughout the oil pipelines in northern and southern Iraq. In a statement to AL-JUMHURIYAH, Salah 'Aziz Karim, the establishment general director, said that the establishment has also extended 12 kms of cables to 24 valves and has restored into operation the equipment which controls the valves at Al-Karkh storage facility. The establishment has, moreover, repaired and put into operation 168 cathode protection stations spread all along the route of the pipelines, which are more than 6,000 km long. Karim also pointed out that the establishment has conducted periodic maintenance of the pipelines and has repaired leaking pipes, cutting half pipe sections and welding them to the main pipelines to stop leaks at numerous pipeline intersections throughout the network. The establishment has also maintained more than 12 pieces of heavy equipment with intrinsic efforts. The establishment general director has also noted that efforts are underway to manufacture seven small electric transformers and two big transformers and to produce mechanical attachments and small electric power distribution boards in coordination with other establishments and in reliance on national technical expertise.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Israel: Peres Explains Remarks on Referendum, Rejects 'Arafat Claim

TA0204160096 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 2 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Shim'on Peres expressed his astonishment today at the uproar caused by his remarks about a referendum on the permanent arrangement with the Palestinians. During the flight from Oman to Qatar, Peres referred to 'Arafat's opposition to a referendum, saying that this was an internal Israeli issue and Israel never gave any commitment to 'Arafat as to whether the future agreement would be ratified either by the Knesset or in a referendum. Our political correspondent Udi Segal reports from Qatar:

[Begin recording] [Segal] Seated in a broad armchair in the emir's guest palace, relaxed and pleased about the warm reception of his Qatari hosts, Shim'on Peres argued, possibly playing the innocent, that his statement about a referendum on the permanent agreement with the Palestinians was given interpretations and readings he had never imagined. For example, he rejected the argument that his move was meant to signal to the National Religious Party that he views it as a potential partner in the next coalition. That was your interpretation, he said.

[Peres] It is aimed neither at the right, nor the left; it is simply the result of the lesson we have learned.

[Segal] This lesson is the Oslo agreements. Peres said he wanted to spare the unnecessary argument about the outcome of the permanent arrangement, which nobody can predict. I do not understand why it caused such a big uproar, he said.

[Peres] I was surprised by the harsh reaction. Why were they so surprised? Perhaps, I think, it was because the Likud believes the autonomy is the permanent solution. I actually say that the autonomy is not the permanent solution. The Likud apparently thinks that by resuming settlement activity it will bring the peace closer. I, for one, am not sure about that.

[Segal] Peres dwelled on the issue of the settlements, but chose to leave all other subjects to the referendum. Wasn't the whole issue of the referendum meant to keep Labor's positions vague, I asked him.

[Peres] I see that you are very worried about vagueness. I do not think I am blurring anything. I think I am very realistic, and have both my feet on the ground.

[Segal] Peres addressed a message to the Palestinians: We intend to enter real negotiations about the permanent arrangement; we mean to hold serious negotiations. Peres rejected 'Arafat's arguments against the referendum, saying that this was an internal Israeli issue and 'Arafat had no right to interfere in it. We did not commit ourselves to the Palestinian Authority as to whether we would ratify the agreement, if we reach one, in the Knesset or in a referendum. This is exclusively up to Israel, he said. [end recording]

[A report by the same correspondent at 1000 GMT adds: "Playing the innocent, Peres said: I do not understand why my remarks about a referendum on the permanent arrangement caused such an uproar in Israel. If the Likud does not enjoy it, that means that this was a correct move. According to him, his declaration was in no way meant to avoid putting the Palestinian issue to the voters' test. The people know our positions, and they are totally different from those of the Likud, he said."

[In a recorded passage Peres says: "I said we would neither remove settlements, nor add new ones. That is the difference between us and the Likud. The Likud says it will not speak with 'Arafat, but we will speak with him; we consider him a partner. The Likud says it will charm al-Asad, and then al-Asad will give up his demands about the Golan Heights. That may very well be, but I am not sure about it. We are asking permission from the people to negotiate. To the extent that we reach some accord, we will bring it to the people for their approval."

[Segal continues: "Peres halfheartedly confirmed that holding a referendum about the permanent arrangement will turn the election campaign into a personal one, but added: The moment a decision was made to choose the prime minister in direct elections they cannot become more personal than they already are."]

Israel: Ministers, Parties React to Peres' Referendum Statement

TA0204160296 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1400 GMT 2 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] In Israeli political circles criticism came from the Meretz coalition partners who view the proposal as unnecessary. Environment Minister Yosi Sarid said the upcoming elections will serve as a mandate.

Labor Cabinet Ministers Ehud Baraq and David Liba'i were supportive of a referendum on the permanent arrangement. So was the chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, Hagay Merom. [passage omitted]

The Likud Party attacked Peres' proposal, saying the prime minister was coming up with all kinds of ploys to avoid the preferences of the voters. Likud Knesset

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Member 'Uzi Landau told Efrayim Gefen that the suggested referendum on the permanent settlement agreement was just a gimmick. [passage omitted]

National Religious Party leader, Zvulun Hammer, called the proposal an internal Labor Party problem over how it wants to formulate and present its platform to the Israeli public.

David Levi, head of the Jordan Valley regional council, says that Prime Minister Peres' call for a referendum on the permanent settlement agreement is in essence a referendum on the Jordan Valley and the fate of its residents. Levi and other settlement heads met today in Jerusalem with President Weizman to discuss their concern of the uncertainty of their future. The president told them that he is beside them and supports them.

Israel: Ministers Agree on Further Measures To Ease Closure

TA0204152196 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 2 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The ministerial team appointed to review the easing of the closure today decided to increase the quotas for trucks permitted to travel from the Gaza Strip to Israel on a daily basis. The security forces' escorts for these trucks will be tightened. Ministers Shahal, Sarid, and Tzur, and Deputy Defense Minister Ori Or, who toured the Erez checkpoint today, said they recommend transferring control over the checkpoints to civilian hands under the jurisdiction of the coordinator of activities in the territories. For this purpose civilian inspectors will be recruited and additional security equipment will be introduced. Our police affairs correspondent Aviv Bushinsky reports that the ministers also decided to permit the exports of goods from the Gaza Strip to Egypt and Jordan without any restrictions.

Israel: Knesset Committee Approves Funding for Settlements

TA0204165296 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1505 GMT 2 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] This afternoon the Knesset Finance Committee approved the transfer of 20 million shekels to settlements in Judaea and Samaria, the Qatif Bloc, and the Golan Heights. The money will be funneled through the Jewish Agency's Settlement Department. Our correspondent Gay Qotev reports.

[Begin Qotev recording] The allocation of 20 million shekels to settlements across the Green Line is earmarked for development needs and investments in agriculture. The Qatif Bloc and Hebron Hills settlements will receive about 4 million shekels; the Judaea and Samaria settlements, about 5.5 million shekels; the Jordan Rift Valley settlements, about 5 million shekels; and the Golan Heights settlements, about 5 million shekels.

The Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip has welcomed the decision by the Finance Committee and its chairman, Knesset Member Gdalya Gal. This is a small modification to a distortion that has lasted for the last three years as far as support for settlement in Judaea and Samaria is concerned, the council says.

In contrast, the Peace Now movement has released an initial announcement, stating that the transfer of 20 million shekels to settlements on the eve of elections constitutes election bribery and has ulterior motives behind it.

During its discussion today, the Finance Committee also decided to allocate 26 million shekels to villages in the Druze sector. [end recording]

Israel: Peres, Government Contacts on Settlements

TA0304092496

[FBIS Report] Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 3 April, in a page A1 report by Nadav Shragay, Gid'on Alon, Yerah Tal, and Gay Bekhor, reveals that "for several weeks, Prime Minister Shim'on Peres, Foreign Minister Ehud Baraq, and Minister Yosi Beilin have been holding contacts with Rabbi Yo'el Bin-Nun from 'Ofra on the possibility of Peres declaring before the elections that no Israeli settlements will be evacuated under the permanent arrangement with the Palestinians. Peres would declare Israeli sovereignty over most of the settlements, with the rest of them also remaining under Israeli control.

In return, Rabbi Bin-Nun would organize a group of settlement figures to call on the public to vote for Shim'on Peres in the elections.

"Peres is also expected to initiate 'confidence-building measures' concerning the settlements prior to the elections, such as increasing their budgets and approving their development blueprints."

HA'ARETZ notes that Peres has already agreed that no settlements will be evacuated and has accepted the principle calling for territorial contiguity between the Jewish settlements. Nevertheless, "many details of the 'deal' remain unresolved. Nor has it been decided how to present these 'confidence-building measures' to the public so as not to unduly antagonize either the Palestinian Authority [PA] or Meretz.

On his way to Qatar from Oman yesterday, Peres said: "We are running in the elections within the following parameters: the Jordan River is our security border;

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Jerusalem will remain undivided; and no settlements will be dismantled. That will be our position in the talks. There is no need to remove settlements."

Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew on 3 April carries a similar report by Hagay Huberman on page 1 which adds that "Rabbi Yo'el Bin-Nun has told Peres he will publicly declare his support for the prime minister if the latter promises to maintain Israeli control over the Jewish settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip in the permanent arrangement with the Palestinians."

Bin-Nun also called on Peres to "promote construction and development plans even before the elections, thus proving that his intentions with regard to the settlements are serious. Bin-Nun also seeks to clarify the issue of basic laws, religious legislation, education, and the Jewish character of the State of Israel."

Another report by Hagay Huberman on the same page of HATZOFE notes that "the PLO may agree to grant the Jewish settlements the status of Israeli territorial enclaves inside a Palestinian state in the permanent arrangement, if Israel agrees to make significant concessions in Jerusalem: for example, full Palestinian sovereignty over all the Arab neighborhoods in the city. This was proposed by a senior Palestinian official in a conversation with one of the better known settlers in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. The Palestinian official said that Yasir 'Arafat knew and approved of the proposal. The Palestinian figure said that this proposal had also been discussed in secret talks between PA and Israeli officials on the permanent accord."

HATZOFE notes that "the contacts over the permanent arrangement based on the plan formulated by Middle East expert Yosi Alper, are continuing. Alper's plan prescribes the establishment of a Palestinian state on 90 percent of the territory of Judaea and Samaria, with the remaining 10 percent, which contains 70 percent of the Jewish settlers, being annexed by Israel. However, a number of issues remain unresolved, particularly the question of the status of the Jewish settlements in the Palestinian state. Until now, the Palestinians have rejected proposals that the Jewish settlements inside Palestinian territory be considered sovereign Israeli enclaves, while the Arab villages in the territories annexed by Israel be granted the status of sovereign Palestinian enclaves within Israeli territory."

HATZOFE reveals that "direct contacts have also been held between PA officials and leaders of the settlement community." The paper goes on to say that "cabinet ministers, including those with left-wing views, have conceded at meetings with settler leaders that they are politically incapable of removing any settlements, even Tall al-Rumaythah. Moreover, in unofficial secret contacts recently held between PA officials and right-wing figures, including settler leaders, at various locations throughout the country, most of the Palestinian officials agreed that removing the settlements was an impossibility."

Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0400 GMT on 3 April carries an interview with Minister Yosi Beilin by Mikha Friedman and Ya'el Dan. When asked whether the HA'ARETZ report was serious, Beilin replies: "It is serious but not totally accurate. There are several groups among the settlers, mostly in the West Bank, who came to us and said: We would like to support Peres' candidacy for the premiership. We want to sound out your feelings and direction with regard to the permanent arrangement. We are not asking you for any commitments since we know it is impossible to make such a commitment before negotiations begin. We held many talks. I met with a group of settlers on 1 April. These groups are not necessarily linked. Yo'el Bin-Nun is one of the more prominent figures of these groups and there are also other Gush Emunim leaders."

When asked what he had proposed to the settlers, Beilin says: "I voiced the same statements I made in 'Ofra, Efrat, and other places throughout the country. I told them that in our opinion, the settlers' real interest today was to vote for the Labor party because only we can guarantee making an effort — which I believe will prove successful — to maintain Israeli sovereignty over most of the settlers and settlement blocs. This is something the Likud cannot promise because it will never reach agreement on a territorial compromise and thus will never be able to apply jointly agreed-upon Israeli sovereignty over most of the settlers."

Beilin asserts that those who reject any territorial concessions, "will not bring peace but rather lead to additional and unnecessary bloody wars like the one in Lebanon. We are going to give up most of the territories. This is a requisite for peace. But the part that we will keep will contain most of the settlers because the settlers live in the large blocs. As for the other settlements, which will not remain under Israeli sovereignty, I believe — on the basis of many discussions with Palestinian officials — that we will be able to agree on certain security arrangements. I assume that many settlers will prefer not to live under foreign control and then Israel will of course be responsible for their future."

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Israel: Peres Said Inclined To Put Off Hebron Pullout

TA0204183096 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 2 Apr 96

[Report by correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen and anchor Ya'aqov Eylon]

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Shim'on Peres is inclined to put off the withdrawal from Hebron at least until after the elections. This decision, just like the decision to go for a national referendum on the permanent arrangement with the Palestinians, constitutes a change in Peres' approach. Our political correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen is reporting on Prime Minister Shim'on Peres during these election days.

[Begin recording] [Rosen] That was not a slip of the tongue by Shim'on Peres. Behind the bombshell dropped by Peres from the air, on his way to Oman, are secret discussions held in the party leadership last week. Minister Baraq was among the leaders of those recommending this move. Peres was not enthusiastic about it, and when he left Israel yesterday, the ministers did not yet know whether he was convinced.

[Baraq] Shim'on was not opposed to this. He simply said the time has not come to decide, and now he became convinced the time has come to do so indeed.

[Rosen] In this move, Peres has said yes, for the third time recently, to matters on which he had said no until not too long ago. His position until quite recently was a no to national referendums, while he is now saying yes to referendums on both the Golan Heights and the permanent arrangement with the Palestinians. He had said no to stopping the political process due to terror, while now contacts with the Palestinians are frozen in fact, and the evacuation of Hebron has been postponed. Peres had said that negotiations with the Syrians should continue until the elections, but in fact, the negotiations were halted until an unknown date, and Peres is posing conditions for their continuation. A no-less-significant move by Peres has not been publicized yet.

A large march was organized by Fatah in Hebron this morning in protest against postponing the Hebron evacuation. What is not known here is that in camera, senior Labor officials recommended to Peres to put off the town's evacuation at least until after the elections, and Peres, so we are told, is more than inclined to agree. 'Arafat does have a cause for concern.

['Arafat, in English] This is completely against what had been agreed upon.

[Rosen] 'Arafat was referring to the decision on a national referendum, but he knows that he does not feature prominently among Peres' considerations today. In this move Peres is bypassing the party's doves who want to include in the platform readiness for the establishment of a Palestinian state, while public opinion is not yet ripe for such a state, and he is improving his chances of receiving NRP [National Religious Party] members' votes in the elections and of getting this party to join Labor after the elections.

[Baraq] Those who want to return to the 1967 borders and divide Jerusalem, let them vote for Meretz; those who want a freeze of the situation, Bantustan-like autonomy, and Bosnia here, let them vote for Likud; and those who want our path, let them vote for us, and let them still know that when the matter is specified beyond the guidelines I have just described, it will be brought to the public for a decision for the second time. [end recording]

[Anchor Micky Haimowitz] Our political correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen is in the Tel Aviv studio. There is a great deal of anger in Meretz, while Peres' move is also aimed at the NRP. What is the prime minister looking for then?

[Rosen] Well, we heard Minister Baraq's comments. The motives here are surely political. You probably remember Micky that the NRP almost entered the government after Rabin's murder, when this issue of a national referendum on the permanent arrangement was mentioned in a document of understanding. Then Peres was opposed, while today he is in favor. A very interesting point we have heard today: There are contacts, not yet formal, between Labor and Avigdor Qahalani's Third Way Movement. In these contacts, of which Peres and Qahalani are aware, a deal is being concocted whereby Labor will indeed undertake to have national referendums, on the Golan issue to which it already committed itself, as well as the permanent arrangement, and in return, Third Way leaders will tell their members to vote for Shim'on Peres as prime minister.

[Haimowitz] Thank you very much 'Imanu'el Rosen. We already have a reaction by Minister Yosi Sarid to the report that Peres is considering a postponement of Hebron's pullout until after the elections. I take a grave view of any connection between Hebron's exit and elections. The exit from Hebron was undertaken in the agreement, and if it is put off, it is security rather than Labor considerations that should decide this, Sarid stated, adding that Meretz will raise this issue in the coming cabinet meeting.

Also reacting to the report that the prime minister intends to put off the pullout from Hebron until after the elections, Yasir 'Arafat said that the Palestinian

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Authority demands that Israel execute all Oslo B agreements according to the stipulated schedule.

Israel: Peres on Ties to Arab World, Hebron Pullout

TA0304064596 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 3 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Our correspondent Gil Litman has learned that Israel is holding contacts to establish diplomatic relations with two more Arab countries: Yemen and Bahrain. In an interview with our correspondent late last night as his plane was landing at Ben-Gurion Airport, Prime Minister Shim'on Peres said he doubted whether Israel and Syria would be able to attain a peace agreement before the end of 1996. Our correspondent Gil Litman reports on the prime minister's trip to Oman and Qatar:

[Begin recording] [Litman] In the course of his trip to the two Gulf states, Prime Minister Shim'on Peres held 42 hours of warm, friendly meetings with the leaders of Oman and Qatar in which the participants made far-reaching promises to improve and consolidate reciprocal ties in agriculture, industry, health, and tourism.

Agreement was also reached on the establishment of diplomatic ties with Qatar at the level of a commercial representations. Peres also found time to engage in domestic politics and come out with election campaign statements.

After taking a short nap on the flight back from the Gulf, and just before the Israel Air Force jet touched down on the tarmac, the prime minister summed up his trip.

[Peres] These were two very intense days, and the results, in my opinion, exceeded our expectations. We originally thought this trip would merely be a modest beginning but at its culmination all doors were opened wide in the most public fashion. All the barriers collapsed and Israel's network of relations with the Arab world now includes another two very special countries.

[Litman] But Oman and Qatar are apparently not the only Arab countries considering ties with Israel. In the course of his two-day trip, the prime minister hinted more than once that Israel was holding exploratory contacts with other Gulf states. We learned that the two countries next in line after Oman and Qatar are Yemen and Bahrain. In the interview, Peres refused to elaborate on the matter.

[Peres] I prefer to talk after the job has been completed rather than announce things in advance, thus inviting difficulties.

[Litman] Incidentally, on the flight back from the Gulf, the prime minister's Israel Air Force jet was permitted to cross Yemeni airspace.

As for the freeze in the negotiations in Syria, the end of 1996 is apparently no longer a target date for reaching peace with Damascus. Peres described the situation as complicated, making it clear that he was not referring to the Israeli election campaign.

[Peres] I would like us to attain peace this year; however, I find this questionable due to the shortage of time and the complexity of the issues. For example, in my opinion, there is not even enough time to resolve the water issue before the end of the year.

[Litman] During the prime minister's trip to the Gulf, domestic and regional politics entertwined. When asked whether he regretted the fact that his visit had been overshadowed by his proposal to hold a national referendum on the permanent arrangement with the Palestinians, Shim'on Peres reiterated his surprise at the reaction in Israel.

[Peres] I have no regrets. I am a realist. I am used to things being blown out of proportion. The proposal is on the agenda. The Labor Party Central Committee will be free to decide. Just like every proposal, it has its pros and cons. We have enough time to decide which is the best option.

[Litman] Prime Minister Peres ended the interview with holiday greetings to the Israeli people. Upon landing, Peres said that the authorities would do everything to guarantee a happy Passover. [end recording]

[Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew on 3 April, carries a similar interview with Prime Minister Shim'on Peres by Orli Azulay-Katz on page 5. In the interview, Peres states: "Israel currently maintains relations with eight Arab states. By the year 2000, the number will reach 20." Peres noted that this will happen "if we continue the peace process and do not adopt a policy of settlement."

[When asked why he had not ordered the Israeli army to act in south Lebanon, Peres replied: "As long as the government can prevent an exacerbation, it will do so. We are strong enough to decide when to heat up things and when not to. The soldiers will make sure the Upper Galilee enjoys a quiet Passover."

[Replying to a question on whether the redeployment in Hebron is conditional on the amendment of the Palestinian Charter, Peres says: "I am not setting any preconditions or issuing an ultimatum. The other side is also carefully considering when and how to do this.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

They have made a commitment to amend the Palestinian Charter and they will do so."]

Israel: Foreign Minister Says Jordan Can Offer 'Equilibrium'

JN0304120696 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 3 Apr 96 p 1

["Special" to JORDAN TIMES by Salamah Ni'mat]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tel Aviv—Israeli Foreign Minister Ehud Baraq has said that the establishment of "some sort of an affiliation" between Jordan and the Palestinian territories would help provide "a stable equilibrium" for the final Israeli-Palestinian settlement.

Speaking in an interview with the London-based AL-HAYAH Arabic daily and the JORDAN TIMES at his office, Mr. Baraq said it was "up to the Jordanians and the Palestinians themselves to decide the kind of affiliation they want through a dialogue that runs parallel to final status talks between Israel and the Palestinians."

The former Israeli army chief-of-staff also said that the month-old-Israeli blockade of the West Bank and Gaza Strip was aimed at reducing the dependency of the Palestinian economy on Israel in addition to the "security considerations" related to stopping suicide bombings against Israel.

Mr. Baraq said Israel would not negotiate with the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas), because that would result in "the emergence of more extremist groups" in addition to the fact that Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). Chairman Yasir 'Arafat is our partner." But he pointed out that Israel would not oppose the participation of Hamas in the Palestinian political system, provided the Palestinian National Authority crushed the "terrorist elements within Hamas."

The Israeli foreign minister also said that his government was not imposing preconditions for resuming negotiations with either Lebanon or Syria, but that his country "expects a clear Syrian condemnation of the terrorist attacks."

He said his government intended to hold talks with Lebanon "when the time comes," indicating he understood the reality that the Lebanese government "needs to get a green light from Damascus."

Mr. Baraq called on the Lebanese government to "contribute to a a conducive atmosphere" for talks by "suppressing" Hizballah, which, he said, was receiving orders from Iran.

The Israeli minister described Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad as "an able, impressive leader," stressing that "the problem is not in the Syrian leaders who are able men, but in (their) readiness to make peace with us."

Mr. Baraq also expressed his view that the international embargo imposed on Iraq "should continue until the present regime is replaced by a more reasonable one."

Israel: Peres on Cooperation With U.S. on Lebanon, Iran Issues

TA0304105196 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV (HAG supplement) in Hebrew 3 Apr 96 pp 2, 3

[Interview with Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres by Sima Qadmon, Hemi Shalev, and Ben Kaspit; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [MA'ARIV] Is this going to be the procedure from now on: They will fire katyushas at us and we will ask the United States to solve our problems for us?

[Peres] We only contact the United States on borderline cases. This was a borderline case because we did not want an escalation as a result of what happened.

[MA'ARIV] Perhaps the security zone is no longer effective?

[Peres] They made several attempts to come right up to our border fence. If it were not for the security zone, all of the incidents would have happened right on our border. Numerous infiltrations had been prevented. The situation is still sensitive, but there is no military solution to guerrilla warfare. This is an ongoing war that will end only with a comprehensive political solution. Lebanon is Israel's biggest testing ground for the war on terrorism. We have tried everything from invasion to peace and nothing has worked. The real and final remedy is peace.

[MA'ARIV] Doesn't our appeal to the United States signal that we're incompetent?

[Peres] I do not think that we show incompetence in our relations with the United States; just the opposite. How many countries are there that have such great relations with the United States? They are a very potent friend.

[MA'ARIV] Have you formalized a stand yet regarding the defense pact with the United States?

[Peres] We want to do this in two stages. In the first stage, we want a pact on the war on terrorism. In the second stage, a defense pact involving lengthy negotiations, which we will be unable to complete before the elections. Until that time we will, perhaps, set up teams that will examine the possibility of such a pact.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

[MA'ARIV] Such a pact also has disadvantages. If, for example, five years from now a prime minister wants to bomb an Iranian nuclear reactor, he would have to ask for U.S. permission first, wouldn't he?

[Peres] I cannot tell what a prime minister will want to do in five years. I can only say: It is better not to wait five years. We should start organizing a coalition against Iran right now. Such a pact enables us to form this kind of coalition. Iran is the primary threat. The United States is on our side on this, and together we are going to convince the European and Middle East countries. Besides, bombing is a problem. We saw how, after the Iraqi reactor was bombed, Iraq gained amazing momentum in getting closer to having a nuclear option. It is better to prevent than to bomb. [passage omitted]

Israel: Chief of Staff Discusses Lebanon, Hamas Attacks, Closure

TA0204161596 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1400 GMT 2 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] chief of staff [COS] says Hizballah is recruiting suicide terrorists, and there are warnings of attacks by Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the Islamic Jihad. As we hear in this report from David Ze'ev, Lieutenant General Amnon Lipkin-Shahaq also told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee that morale in the SLA [South Lebanese Army] is quite low.

[Begin Ze'ev recording] The COS said Israel is doing everything to restore security in southern Lebanon. Still, the residents there feel threatened, and members of Israel's allied militia, the SLA, are reaching their own conclusions, Lt. Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahaq is quoted as saying by Knesset and army sources present at the closed-door meeting of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. The COS evaded questions on whether the government is holding the army back from conducting larger-scale operations in Lebanon. Gen. Shahaq would only say: I do not wish to respond to that here and now. He defended Israel's action over the weekend in the village of Yatar in which two people were killed. Hizballah radio reported that the two were Lebanese civilians, but Gen. Shahaq said Israel received information from a reliable source that the two belong to Hizballah, and under the same circumstances, he said, Israeli soldiers would fire again.

In response to a question in the committee, the army chief said Israel does have information on Hamas' and Islamic Jihad's intentions to carry out attacks. While, he said, Palestinians of the Gaza Strip are suffering seriously economically, Israel has only shaky control over the closure of the West Bank from where it is easier for a lone attacker to pass through to Israel. Said Gen. Shahaq: Even the allocation of 260 million shekels for a separation plan does not change that. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1505 GMT on 2 April adds that "the COS dedicated most of his remarks to Hizballah. There is no signed agreement with them. Understandings at the time were reached with the United States, which talked with Syria, which talked with Hizballah, which again talked with the Syrians, who again talked with the Americans, who reported back to us. Now, the COS emphasized, Hizballah's activity is far from what I would consider understandings." On Yatar, "the COS noted that we had information on people organizing in Yatar. Observation detected five people, including two armed ones. From my viewpoint, the soldiers did not err, Shahaq noted, adding: Today too we will open fire on such a target, and there are no two ways about it, not to mention the fact that in order to fire the soldiers in the area do not need the approval of the Northern Command commander or the inner cabinet." "The COS also noted that he submitted recommendations to the cabinet on what action to adopt in southern Lebanon, but he refused to elaborate.

["On the closure, the COS said that it resulted in a dire economic situation in Gaza. We do not want to starve the population, but we do not want the crossings to be used by terrorists. Faster passage of merchandise may ease the economic situation, but it should be remembered that the larger quantity of goods passing through, the larger the chance for the passage of bombs and explosives."]

Israel: Security Forces on 'High Alert' To Thwart Attacks

TA0304050496 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0400 GMT 3 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and the security forces are on high alert along the northern border, in the territories, and inside the Green Line to thwart terrorist attacks. Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that security has been stepped up at public locations and holiday sites. Instructions have also been issued to heighten security at Jewish centers around the world. [passage omitted]

Our correspondent notes that tension remains high in south Lebanon and along Israel's northern border. [passage omitted]

IDF soldiers on holiday leave have received strict instructions on how to behave while on the roads. The troops have also been urged to show greater alertness at all IDF roadblocks and checkpoints.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

The Israel Police have completed their deployment for the holiday. Starting this morning, thousands of policemen, soldiers, and Civil Guard volunteers will be stationed at public locations and holiday sites.

Police Commissioner Asaf Hefetz told our police affairs correspondent Aviv Bushinsky that the authorities have received many early warnings on the possibility of terrorist attacks during the holiday; however, none of these warnings were concrete.

Israel: IDF Seals House of 'Terrorist' Recruiter of Suicide Bombers

TA0304070396 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 3 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Early this morning, the authorities sealed the house of terrorist Muhammad Abu-Wardah in al-Fawwar refugee camp near Hebron. Abu-Wardah recruited the two suicide bombers who perpetrated the attacks in Jerusalem and Ashqelon.

Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is operating against Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists in the Hebron area today. One man suspected of hostile terrorist activity has been arrested.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Jordan: Prime Minister Describes Iraq as 'Big Prison'

JN0204143296 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 2 Apr 96 p 1

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kuwait—Jordan's prime minister said in remarks published on Monday [1 April] Iraq was a "big prison" for Iraqis and a threat to its neighbours. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti also reaffirmed in an interview with Kuwait's AL-WATAN newspaper Amman's keen desire to improve ties with Kuwait. "We do not talk about improving living conditions in the prison...we are calling for the release of people held in the big prison called Iraq," he said. "What is happening in Iraq causes a threat to the unity of the Iraqi territory and people, and hence a threat to the states of the region with no exceptions," Mr. al-Kabariti added. "As for the date of reopening the Jordanian embassy (in Kuwait)...and the assignment of a Kuwaiti ambassador in Amman, that is a matter for our Kuwaiti brothers to decide on. As far as we are concerned we are ready to open our embassy as of tomorrow and to receive a Kuwaiti ambassador as soon as today," Mr. al-Kabariti said.

Jordan: Peres' Statement on Referendum 'Contradicts' Oslo Accord

JN0304100496 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 3 Apr 96 p 1

[Editorial: "The Peres 'Parameters' and the Desired Peace"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Seeking to clarify his statement about his plan to conduct a public referendum on the final agreement with the PLO, Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres spoke about what he termed "parameters" on which he will make no concessions. Peres said that in Israel's book, those "parameters," and nothing else, would be the pivots of a Palestinian-Israeli agreement.

This statement contradicts the basic principles of the Oslo accord. In addition, adhering to these parameters would obstruct the peace process. Everybody agrees that the continuation and viability of the peace process depend on its comprehensiveness. Therefore, it it necessary for the second phase of the negotiations on the Palestinian track to continue. This phase is scheduled to begin shortly to determine the final shape of the Palestinian track. Also, an agreement must be reached on the Syrian-Lebanese track, which has recently stumbled. This was clear in yesterday's statements by Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, who said that chances for peace are now very slim.

Peres' statements are part of his election campaign and efforts to win over part of the Israeli right to support his premiership for a second term. However, the dangerous aspect of his statements is that he is mobilizing the Israeli public, which will have the final say in the referendum on the final agreement with the Palestinians. Should the Israeli public defeat such an agreement, the people of the region — who aspire for peace to devote their efforts toward development — would see the collapse of the very foundations of the peace process.

Many wise people have made tremendous efforts to achieve peace and prosperity. It is difficult, if not impossible, to set the clock back and appease extremists who do not believe in peace. Doing this will destroy the foundations of just and comprehensive peace, which we are seeking to achieve.

Jordan: Water Authority Reports No Evidence of Radioactive Leakage

JN0204144396 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1200 GMT 2 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Water Authority says tests conducted in the Wadi al-'Arabah region of southern Jordan show no evidence of radioactive material. It said tests on soil and residue from water wells indicates that radioactivity is within normal levels. The tests came in the wake of news reports from Israel that a nuclear facility in the Negev Desert could leak radioactive material.

Jordan: Deputy Announces Resignation From IAF, House Bloc

JN0204124496 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic 1 Apr 96 pp 1,7

[FBIS Translated Text] Deputy Dhib 'Abdallah Khattab yesterday announced his resignation from the Islamic Action Front [IAF] and the IAF bloc at the House of Representatives. This is the second resignation in the ranks of the IAF and IAF bloc in a week. It is to be recalled that Deputy Ahmad al-Kasasibah resigned from the IAF and IAF bloc at the House last week against the background of differences of opinion regarding the IAF's interim program. Thus, the number of IAF deputies at the House was reduced to 15.

Deputy Dhib 'Abdallah gave al-Kabariti's government his vote of confidence in violation of an IAF decision to withhold such confidence. This prompted a summons for questioning at the Executive Bureau as a prelude to referring him, along with his two colleagues al-Kasasibah and al-'Akayilah, to an IAF court.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Jordan: Planning Minister on Dinar Circulation in Palestinian Areas

JN0204105696 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 2 Apr 96 pp 1, 7

[Report by JORDAN TIMES staff reporter P.V. Vivekanand]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman—Jordan hopes that a donors' meeting in June would help it increase its foreign currency reserves to meet the possibility of having to reimburse the Palestinian self-rule authority for Jordanian dinars in circulation in the autonomous West Bank and Gaza Strip, Planning Minister Rima Khalaf said Monday [1 April].

The Jordanian move to boost its reserves reflected an anxiety that has been building since last year when Palestinian National Authority (PNA) officials said they were considering plans to issue a Palestinian pound to replace the dinar as one of the main currencies in circulation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The dinar has remained in circulation despite Israel's rule of the territory since 1967. While day-to-day transactions are in Israeli shekels and dinars, most Palestinian bank accounts are in dinars. Nearly 40 branches of Jordanian banks operate in the Palestinian territories.

With the landmark autonomy accords signed by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israel leading to Palestinian autonomy in the territory, concern is strong in Jordan that the PNA would go ahead and issue its own currency and demand the reimbursement for the dinars in the self-rule areas.

Dr. Khalaf told a press briefing that Jordan had set a target of $900 million as its foreign currency reserves which would cover the Kingdom's own needs as well as partly reimburse the PNA if and when it decides to issue its own currency.

Jordan's present reserves of foreign currency are estimated at less than $500 million, about $100 million below an IMF stipulation that it should have enough to cover two months of imports.

"The Jordanian currency in circulation in the Palestinian areas is estimated at between $500 and $800 million," Dr. Khalaf said. "We have to make contingency plans to reimburse the PNA in the event that it issues its own currency and replace the dinar."

The minister said Jordan first considered setting up a special fund to cope with the situation if there was an abnormal demand for foreign currency but then it found that building the foreign exchange reserves was the best means to achieve that objective.

Under an agreement signed last year, the PNA has undertaken to given Jordan advance notice of any move to issue a Palestinian currency.

Donors are scheduled to meet in Paris in early June to discuss the Jordanian request for help in coordination with the World Bank, which is helping Jordan implement an economic restructuring programme agreed with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The Kingdom is expecting around $100 million in World Bank loans and $130 million in European Union (EU) assistance in 1996 to help increase the reserves and maintain the balance of payments.

Jordanian monetary experts say that the issuance of a Palestinian currency would not make fiscal sense in that the PNA would not be able to put up enough reserves to support it.

But the PNA, anxious to project as many symbols of statehood and sovereignty as possible, is believed to be seriously studying the issue.

Dr. Khalaf also said Monday the scope of Jordan's trade with the Palestinian territories was curtailed by an agreement between the Palestine Liberation Organisation and Israel that imposes strict conditions on Palestinian imports.

The PLO-Israeli agreement, signed in 1994 in Paris, binds the Palestinian economy to that of Israel by limiting Palestinian options for imports from non-Israeli sources.

The planning minister said trade between Jordan and Israel could not take off so far because of the absence of an implemented accord on transport.

A Jordanian-Israeli transport accord signed in January took effect on April 1, and Dr. Khalaf said she expected the movement of goods between the two sides to begin soon.

The planning minister said the reduction of Jordanian exports to Iraq covered in an annual protocol would mostly apply to products with little or no Jordanian component. That was a reference to items like vegetable oil, the raw material for which is imported. Jordanian labour goes into processing it.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Dr. Khalaf indicated that products with heavy Jordanian input would not be affected by the reduction.

One of the reasonings put forward by officials for the reduction of exports to Iraq—from about $400 million in 1995 to $220 million in 1996—is the fact that Jordan was spending its own foreign currency reserves to import raw materials involved in products for export to Iraq.

Iraq is not paying for the goods, and the accumulated Iraqi dues to Jordan are said to be more than $1 billion.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Lebanon: Forty Thousand Forged U.S. Dollars Seized

NC0204151996 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1300 GMT 2 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Citing Syrian intelligence service departments operating in Lebanon, AFP said that these departments have seized U.S. $40,000 in 100-dollar counterfeit bills in al-Biqa'. The Syrian departments have detained a number of persons. The Syrian intelligence commander held a news conference in Shtawrah, during which he presented the counterfeit dollars and printing press material.

Lebanon: Report on Mock Raids, Attacks; UNIFIL on Israeli Rocket

NC0204170896 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 2 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Israeli military aircraft have carried out mock raids over the south. They conducted intense flights over al-Nabatiyah and Iqlim al-Tuffah and were confronted by the Lebanese army antiaircraft guns.

The Amal Movement today carried out two attacks on occupation forces positions in Anan east of Sidon and Bisri, destroying a Rio type vehicle and killing or wounding several of the two posts' personnel.

Meanwhile, the Black 13 September Battalions announced that one of its groups carried out an operation against the occupation forces patrol on the al-'Ayshiyah-al-Jarmaq Road killing and wounding the patrol members. It also announced that a second group carried out another attack on the al-Suwayda' position.

Elsewhere, a source close to the UN Interim Force in Lebanon [UNIFIL] said these forces are facing difficulty in investigating the Yatar incident, in which two citizens were killed and another wounded by Israeli shelling two days ago. He added that the investigation is continuing.

He said experts have not yet found concrete evidence as to where the rocket landed. The same source added that the rocket, for use against personnel, had been developed in a way that it leaves no traces of shrapnel or place of impact.

He noted that it was revealed four years ago that four senior officers of Israeli special units were killed in suspicious circumstances when they were training on or modifying this type of rocket in an occupied Palestine desert. Israeli media then reported that the officers were killed as they were conducting drills for a special operation to abduct Saddam Husayn.

Lebanon: Buwayz—Peres Win Could Boost Peace Process

MM0204143396 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 31 Mar 96 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Buwayz: Chirac's Visit Is Very Important Because it Coincides With Defining the Roles of the Region's States"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Beirut, AL-HAYAH — Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has said that President Jacques Chirac's visit to Lebanon "is very important and will determine future relations between Lebanon and the European and Mediterranean states." He said that Israel's announcement that it is committed to withdrawal from the south "paves the way for the meetings of the joint military committee. The army is in charge of providing security and halting operations by the resistance." He added that "Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres' return to power will speed up the negotiation process."

During a meeting the evening before last at the al-Turath restaurant in al-Zuq, Minister Buwayz was speaking about the general situation in the country to French Senator Claude Huriet, 35 journalists, and 10 university lecturers in medicine and science, members of the "Health Club." [passage omitted]

Minister Buwayz listed the reasons for Lebanon's nonparticipation in the Sharm al-Shaykh summit as being the constant Israeli attacks on the south resulting in victims and material damage, and the continuing detention of 300 Lebanese in Israeli jails. He said that "the Security Council did not meet once to examine the attacks and condemn Israel. Consequently, Lebanon could not participate in Sharm al-Shaykh because of the operations carried out in Jerusalem."

He added: "There must be a distinction between the meaning of terrorism as proposed in Sharm al-Shaykh and the meaning of resistance which is Lebanon's right for as long as Israel occupies part of its territory." He added: "Lebanon was not prepared to sit down with the participants to boost Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres' election prospects." He said that "Lebanon was right not to participate in Sharm al-Shaykh," pointing to "disagreements between the French and the Americans and between the Egyptians and the Americans over the priorities that must be dealt with. The Americans wanted it [Sharm al-Shaykh] to combat terrorism while the French and Egyptians wanted it to provide a political solution."

Minister Buwayz stated Lebanon's position on the peace process, saying that "Lebanon is concerned about the following three fundamental issues: The security and

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

nuclear order in the Middle East which must stem from the peace conference. I say nuclear, because Israel has some 200 nuclear warheads and Lebanon is only 150 kms from the nearest station. It is concerned about any new political order in the region concerning the Palestinian issue, Jerusalem, and the holy places; and about the fate of the Palestinians in Lebanon, since it shelters more than 400,000 Palestinians expelled by Israel since 1948."

He said that Lebanon "cannot continue to host this number if the Palestinian issue is resolved, because of its sectarian balance, its geographical position, and its economic and social situation. These people must return to Palestine one way or another." He stressed "Lebanon's interest in any new economic order in the region."

He reaffirmed "the importance of unconditionally implementing Resolution 425," and pointed to "the principles according to which Lebanon joined the Madrid peace conference." He said: "In 13 negotiation sessions with the Israelis in Washington, the Israeli negotiator never used the word withdrawal, only redeployment, despite statements that Israel has no designs on a single inch of Lebanese waters." [as published]

Buwayz stressed "the importance of Israel openly and unambiguously announcing its commitment to withdrawal from Lebanese territories, because this would pave the way for meetings of the joint military committees between the two countries to examine the schedule for Israeli withdrawal and for the Lebanese Government's military forces to provide security in the areas from which Israel will withdraw. This will mean that the Lebanese Government will put an end to the resistance, because there will be no justification for its existence. For the Lebanese Government to put an end to the resistance before an Israeli withdrawal would mean Lebanon becoming Israel's border policeman, and this we refuse." He added: "The Lebanese Army now numbers 55,000 soldiers, in addition to 15,000 elements of the internal security forces. Following the Israeli withdrawal, the army will provide security and put an end to any resistance operation."

He said that "the peace process is paralyzed and awaits the end of the Israeli elections." He said that "Peres' return to power could speed up not only the resumption of the negotiation process, but its take-off. Lebanon stands to gain from the completion of the settlement process, in view of its geographical situation between east and west and Europe and Africa, and also because of its lively economy and the fact that it is a cultural, banking, financial, and university center in the Middle East and has a democratic and free system."

On parliamentary elections, he said: "The Lebanese genuinely want to hold freer and more realistic elections. I believe that any election law must depend on many factors and on the country's conditions and real needs. This law will be like a remedy to an ailment." He added: "I personally believe that sectarianism must gradually end in Lebanon. We must progress from this trade practiced by politicians and move on from partisanship to legislative work."

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Syria: Al-Asad-Mubarak Conclude Talks in Damascus

JN0204154496 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 2 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] President Hafiz al-Asad and Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak met at the People's Palace after Mubarak arrived in Damascus this morning. [passage omitted]

The expanded meeting was followed by a closed meeting between the two presidents. The discussions dealt with the general situation in the region, prevailing conditions and relations on the Arab scene, and the peace process, including the Syrian track, the talks on which were halted by Israel. The discussions also dealt with the situation in southern Lebanon.

President Muhammad Husni Mubarak left Damascus. President Hafiz al-Asad led those who saw him off as he boarded the plane. [passage omitted]

Syria: Al-Asad, Mubarak Hold News Conference

JN0304110196 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1738 GMT 2 Apr 96

[News conference by Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak with unidentified foreign and domestic correspondents in Damascus on 2 April—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [al-Asad] Welcome to all of you. Of course, I first welcome President Mubarak, who, as you know, is a colleague and friend. We always say such words. This is the truth, and it should be told as it is. Of course, as usual, we discussed our concerns and interests. As always, there was no disagreement on any issue discussed. To the contrary, we were in agreement on our approach to future developments and circumstances and with respect to current affairs.

I am very pleased to meet President Mubarak and the brother members of the press from Egypt. I hope that we all succeed in achieving what we want for our people and our nation. I believe we all agree that our circumstances are difficult, that the future may be more difficult. There is no way to evade our responsibilities. God willing, and in spite of the circumstances, we should approach the future with optimism and great confidence in ourselves as a nation and a people. Our people and nation have experienced many difficult and harsh circumstances, but we have overcome them.

We have great hopes and are confident that we will be able to overcome our difficult circumstances. As an Arab nation, we will continue to safeguard our rights and causes. Naturally, we do not proceed from a certain or deeply rooted enmity against anyone. What we want is to safeguard our interests, our culture, heritage, hopes, and suffering — that is, how to deal with them. We want to safeguard all these things that are of interest to us, as is the case with any nation that seeks to preserve its past, present, and future.

Once again, I welcome President Mubarak. I hope we will meet again soon.

[Mubarak] I thank my Brother President Hafiz. I do not want to repeat what I have said before. We say the same thing at every meeting — about how solid the relationships between the two of us and between the two people are.

I would like to make a small point. Rumors circulate from time to time that there are differences between Egypt and Syria. There are absolutely no differences, because we have no issues on which we differ. There can be differences between brothers. This does not mean that they will quarrel. There are absolutely no differences or alienation between us and Syria, as I have read in some news reports. We are all working for the common interest. We meet to exchange views that serve our mutual interests. We all know the national course and where the solution lies. We are all working to attain the Arab nation's objectives.

I want to emphasize that there are no problems and that if the interval between the two meetings have been long, this might be due to certain circumstances. Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih left Cairo yesterday, and French President Jacques Chirac will visit Egypt next Saturday. If this meeting had been delayed, some people would have said there are problems. Thank you.

[Correspondent] President Mubarak, much talk has been heard about an Israeli-Jordanian-Turkish alliance taking shape. How do you view this, and how can the Arab position be strengthened to confront the challenges of the future?

[Mubarak] I want to tell you something. We cannot speak about an alliance or assume that there is a Turkish-Israeli-Jordanian alliance at present. We are following up the situation. The Turkish president was in Egypt, and we discussed several issues. I did not realize that there is any sort of alliance. Maybe these reports are assessments from here or there, but I did not feel that there is such an alliance. Jordan and Israel have long-standing relations and certain circumstances, but these do not obscure the Arab face at all.

[Correspondent] A question for both presidents. Recent reports said that there is radioactive leakage from Israel's Dimona reactor. You discussed this subject with President Mubarak in a telephone call last week. Have today's talks dealt with this subject? We want to

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

know the Egyptian and Syrian positions clearly, if these reports prove to be true.

[Al-Asad] In fact, we discussed the subject before this meeting. Egypt, in particular, is continuously monitoring [for radiation]. So far, this subject is not technically and decisively clear. When I discussed the subject with President Mubarak a few days ago, we talked about the serious consequences if these reports turn out to be true. It is difficult for us to deny these reports unless we have evidence that no radiation leaks have occurred. This is something that requires follow-up. I think Egypt is the only Arab country that is monitoring the radiation on a technical basis. I do not know if any other Arab brothers are doing the same, but I do not have any information that other states are monitoring the situation. Anyway, this is a very serious subject that requires great and relentless attention. It is one of the most important issues, because our people may be harmed. This is something of the utmost importance. We all have to follow up.

[Mubarak] Our position regarding a nuclear presence in the region is known. We have repeatedly said that the region must be free of nuclear weapons. With regard to what has been recently reported in Israel about the occurrence of some radioactivity or radioactive leakage, we are thoroughly scrutinizing these reports. We do not have clear evidence of radioactive air pollution. We are also investigating something that may have been overlooked: the burial of waste in Israel that may later pollute water underground. The water underground moves freely from one side to another. Some people say that Israel is at the receiving end of the downward slope. Regardless, the issue is serious. We are following up on this issue with many parties, including Israel.

[Correspondent] Your Excellency President Husni Mubarak: Israel has withdrawn its negotiating delegation from the Maryland talks. It is evading compliance with the agreements it has signed, such as the Oslo accord, on which Arab views are widely known. How do you view Syria's call for the cosponsors of the peace process to reconvene the Madrid conference?

[Mubarak] The Madrid peace conference was held. We would like to talk about resuming the peace talks. I believe that any delay in the talks complicates matters and aggravates violence. I would like to say that the negotiations must continue. There is no reason to postpone the talks. There is no need to postpone the implementation of what was agreed upon, because this plays into the hands of all the forces opposed to peace.

[Correspondent] President Hafiz al-Asad, my question for you is very similar to the previous one. It goes without saying that the peace process is in a critical stage. This meeting between your excellency and His Excellency President Mubarak necessarily touched on the foundations of a solution to the issue, which must be revitalized. How does Syria think this issue can be resolved?

[Al-Asad] We all can see that Israel is hampering, obstructing, delaying, and slowing moves and suspending talks. In my opinion, the Israelis have not made up their minds on the peace process. They have not done so. If we view the talks or the negotiations as a gateway to peace, this gateway has started to narrow. I am not saying it has been closed, but it has gotten significantly narrower.

Our position on peace is well known. We agreed to start the peace process. After five years of efforts, we have achieved neither peace nor anything like peace. We have achieved nothing. The reason is that we are not abiding by the UN resolutions. We are not abiding by the logic that each nation has its own land, border, sovereignty, and dignity. The Israelis are not abiding by these matters. If there is no new path, I do not think peace will be achieved in the region.

[Correspondent] The United States asked Syria to use its good offices to ease tension in Lebanon. What is the real situation in Lebanon, and did Syria respond to the U.S. calls and try to ease tension there?

[Al-Asad] We know for sure that an understanding was reached between the two parties in 1993. The understanding, to which Syria is not a party, stipulates that the resistance in southern Lebanon should not shell northern Israel and that Israel should not shell civilian areas. The Israelis are not honoring this. Anyone who observes what happens over a week, a month, two months, or years, will see that the shelling continues. I do not know if it is taking place now, but I assume it is. Yesterday and the day before yesterday, it took place. Provocations, as well as flights over civilian areas, villages, and cities are going on. Regardless of whether a person belongs to the Arab nation or not, no one can say to those who defend their land: You are wrong; you are terrorists. He cannot ask people to condemn them for practicing terrorism. Yet, on the Lebanese side, the resistance says it is struggling to make Israel leave. It is difficult for anyone to tell them: You are wrong.

This is the situation. However, yesterday and the day before yesterday, things seemed to be quieter, as far as the Lebanese side is concerned. But on the Israeli side, thing were more clamorous and noisier, and Israel was challenging the others — that is, the Lebanese in the south and elsewhere.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

[Correspondent] President Husni Mubarak, do you think that it is time to take specific steps to face the Israeli nuclear threat, in which we do not only acknowledge the threat is there, but we take specific measures to face it?

[Mubarak] What do you mean by specific steps? Attack the nuclear reactor, for example....

[Correspondent, interrupting] Massing world public opinion, for example.

[Mubarak] They attacked the [Iraqi] nuclear reactor, but we will not do that in 1996. We must use politics and world public opinion. I believe that in the end we will inevitably arrive at our goal of a region free of this kind of weapons.

[Al-Asad] We discussed that, of course.

[Correspondent] President Husni Mubarak: In view of the current standstill in the peace process, do you think that Shim'on Peres' visit to Oman and Qatar can serve the peace process? Second, why does it seem that the Arabs can meet with non-Arabs anytime, while an inter-Arab meeting is not possible? Thank you.

[Mubarak] As for the inter-Arab meeting, we — President Hafiz and myself — meet with many presidents. But if you are talking about an Arab summit, I can say that it is difficult for any Arab summit to be convened under the current conditions and differences — especially since the Gulf war, which led to the current fragmentation.

With regard to Shim'on Peres' visit to Oman, this matter concerns those two countries. I do not have any custodianship over Oman. It knows how to conduct its own affairs. I also do not have any custodianship over Qatar.

[Correspondent] Will it affect the peace process?

[Mubarak] No, it will not affect the peace process. The peace process is much stronger than that.

[Correspondent] President Mubarak, did you discuss with President al-Asad the Sharm al-Shaykh meeting? Is there any degree of common assessment or a minimum level of agreement on the importance of this meeting?

[Mubarak] We had already discussed the Sharm al-Shaykh meeting. The Sharm al-Shaykh summit issued a statement reflecting the agreement reached with the U.S. President. We called it the Summit of Peacemakers, and this is what the U.S. President said in his telephone conversation with me. This prompted me to agree to hold the conference, first, to discuss the peace process, the deterioration in the peace process, and the extensive siege; second, to discuss the security measures [preceding two words in English] that we had been talking about; and, third, to condemn terrorism in all its forms, in all areas, and on both sides.

These basic principles were tackled by the conference and by our ambassadors at the Washington meetings. They will also be raised by the foreign ministers during their meeting in Washington in two or three weeks. We should abide by the Sharm al-Shaykh statement to serve the peace process.

[Correspondent] President al-Asad, while welcoming President Mubarak, you said there were concerns and dangers surrounding the Arab homeland. Will you please explain these concerns and dangers?

[Al-Asad] You probably know as much about them as I do, maybe more. I do not know. I believe that each one of you is experiencing this ordeal, and I am one of you.

[Correspondent] Will you please name these concerns and dangers, since you are one of the leaders responsible for removing them?

[Al-Asad] Just take a quick look at the Arab nation, at the Iraqi situation, at the situation around Israel, at those who say they achieved peace and those who did not achieve it, at Libya, and at the Arab nation. If we elaborate, some people will give up hope or at least feel strong pain. We are facing unenviable circumstances. This should not make us give up hope. Instead, it should bolster our position and our determination more than ever. If we are truly alert and vigilant, we will be able to repulse these calamities, some of which are waiting for us and some of which are facing us now. So, prepare yourself. [laughter]

[Mubarak] Brother President, please allow me to add just a few words. The dangers around the Arab world have not stopped. There will always be dangers of various types unless the Arab world unites and reaches an agreement, particularly in light of the disruption that followed Iraq's occupation of Kuwait. All this brought many dangers and infiltrations to the Arab world. We all need to be aware of this and be in agreement so that we can avoid dangers that may cause more deterioration in the Arab world. Thanks.

[Al-Asad] Thank you.

Syria: Papers Comment on al-Asad-Mubarak Summit, Topics Discussed

JN0304094296 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0450 GMT 3 Apr 96

[Press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] Under the headline "A Clear Position," TISHRIN says the talks between Presidents

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Hafiz al-Asad and Husni Mubarak addressed topical issues, primarily the peace process, which was halted on the Syrian track. The two presidents also discussed Arab relations, the tense situation in southern Lebanon, the leakage at the Israeli nuclear reactor in Dimona, and the need for joint Arab action to confront the possible threats of this leakage.

TISHRIN asserts that President Hafiz al-Asad has strong confidence in the Arab nation and its capabilities, despite the difficult circumstances prevailing in the Arab region. President al-Asad said pan-Arab action will never stop until these circumstances are over. He added that Syria looks forward to the future with optimism and confidence. President al-Asad said: If it is true that there is a leakage at the Israeli nuclear reactor, then this is very serious and should be given top priority, in view of its consequences on Arab states.

TISHRIN concludes: The rulers of Israel raise a big clamor and use broad accusations in world media for this purpose. If any observer carefully examines this Israeli clamor, he will find that it is full of lies and fabrications. Israel is the one that obstructed the peace process and withdrew from it, and is threatening to bring it to a complete halt. Israel is also the one that is escalating the situation in southern Lebanon and is threatening the Arabs' present and future by stockpiling nuclear weapons and hushing up the nuclear leakage in the Dimona reactor, while the influential sides in the international community remain silent. It is regrettable that some Arabs were taken in by Israel's peaceful claims, which are nothing more than talk for consumption. Those Arabs started to propagate the concept of a new Middle East, which means a Middle East under the hegemony of Israel, economically, politically, and militarily, instead of working to revive Arab solidarity, mobilize energies, and promote the interests of the nation.

Commenting on the same issue, AL-BA'TH says: The summit of Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Husni Mubarak is a living example of the attention Syria pays to pan-Arab security and other aspects. The paper underlines the important issues that were discussed at the Damascus summit, primarily the peace process, the difficulties facing inter-Arab relations, and the nuclear leakage at the Israeli Dimona reactor, which requires a collective Arab effort.

AL-BA'TH asserts that Israel is deliberately obstructing the peace process. This requires Arab efforts, since peace is an Arab responsibility, in light of Israeli intransigence and aggression. When Israel fans the flames of the conflict and makes tension prevail, this is a warning to all those who trusted Israel without heeding its intentions, whether those of the government or the political parties.

AL-BA'TH adds: The Israeli aggression against the people of Lebanon is a challenge to the peace process. Israel's disregard of the rights of the Palestinian people is a disregard of the Arabs and of international resolutions. In addition, Israel's nuclear weapons now represent a serious center of tension. No stable and firm peace can be established in the presence of this center.

AL-BA'TH concludes: The problem in the region does not only lie in the Israeli challenge to the international will; it also lies in the Arab situation itself. Israel derives its strength from Arab weakness and from the defects in the Arab situation.

Syria: Khaddam, SAIRI Leader Discuss Escalating Action in Iraq

JN0204165296 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1215 GMT 2 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus—Ayatollah Sayyid Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim, chairman of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI] met with Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam recently after al-Hakim arrived in Damascus to attend meetings of the Iraqi opposition there.

Sources from the Iraqi opposition in Damascus said the discussions dealt with the latest developments in the Iraqi arena and efforts by the Iraqi opposition to escalate action inside Iraq and topple Saddam's corrupt regime. The same sources said that the talks between al-Hakim and Khaddam focused on the Iraqi opposition's field plan and how to activate and escalate the struggle against the ruling regime in Baghdad and rid the people of the dual siege that was imposed on them by the arrogant power and the tyrant more than five-and-a-half years ago.

The Iraqi opposition leaders' meeting in Damascus is one of the most important and prominent gatherings. According to opposition sources there, the meeting will focus on initiating field action against the collapsing regime in Baghdad.

Syria: Israeli Idea of 'New Middle East' Rejected as 'Hegemony'

JN0204171596 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1140 GMT 2 Apr 96

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: At a time when the stringent siege on the occupied Arab territories is escalating and Israel is continuing its settlement

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

activities and the demolition of houses, as well as the storming of camps, townships, and villages and the arrest of thousands, officials in Tel Aviv are circulating the idea of a new Middle East.

These officials say they want the new Middle East to be devoid of terrorism. By terrorism, they mean any national voice that calls for regaining the occupied territories, the withdrawal of Israeli forces, and achieving self-determination in accordance with the UN resolutions.

In short, a new Middle East means a Middle East dominated by Israel politically, militarily, and economically. In such a Middle East, the Arab identity, as well as the people's aspirations for unity, freedom, and progress, can be eliminated.

It is regrettable that some people in this region are deceived by the Israeli falsehoods at a time when any Arab citizen anywhere in the Arab homeland should not be deceived by these lies.

Israel did not try to promote the peace process. Instead, it created mountains of obstacles to block this process. Israel did not respond to any sincere effort and did not comply with the resolutions of international legitimacy, which were the basis of the peace process.

More than four years after the Madrid conference and after long, difficult, and futile talks, we can see the tangible reality and sense the falsehood of the Israeli allegations.

The Syrian Golan is still under occupation. The Peres government recently built new neighborhoods and added them to its settlements. Furthermore, southern Lebanon is subjected to a hail of daily shelling that inflicts damage on civilian property and claims innocent lives. The West Bank and the Gaza Strip are now besieged and isolated from the world. Life has stopped there while economic conditions continue to deteriorate in a tragic manner.

Jerusalem is also victimized. Every day it asks for help against persecution, repression, the alteration of its features, and the distortion of its history. Where is the alleged peace? Where are the Security Council resolutions that provide for Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories and for the removal of the effects of Israeli aggression?

Where is the land-for-peace principle? Did Israel really withdraw from a single kilometer? From the view of the Israeli leaders, arresting thousands of people, demolishing houses, rendering families homeless, and killing people in cold blood, as well as the scorched-earth policy in southern Lebanon, the continued occupation since 1967, and the repression of Syrian citizens, are not terrorist actions. From the view of these leaders, an Arab child throwing stones at occupation troops is a terrorist action that requires a gathering of governments and states to extend aid to Israel and denounce the resistance expressed by this child.

Undoubtedly, those who appease Israel in this regard are only undermining the peace process and encouraging Zionism to continue its expansionist and aggressive schemes and disavow all the principles and resolutions of the international community and the UN charters.

Yesterday, the Israeli prime minister said that Syria's condemnation of terrorism is a condition for resuming talks with it. He added that, as condition to signing any agreement with Syria, Israelis will have to approve it in a special referendum.

Syria has always condemned, and still condemns, terrorist actions that target innocent people. However, Israel and its supporters want Syria to denounce the national resistance and the legitimate struggle and to use its capabilities to strike at any national voice that calls for removing the occupation and regaining the territories.

The Israelis are dreaming. Syria cannot detach itself from its people and cause or sell out its territory or the rights of its nation. From Syria's viewpoint, peace means the acknowledgement of rights, the defeat of falsehood, and the removal of occupation.

Israel, however, wants the new Middle East to be an Arab region that yields to Israeli hegemony, that disavows Arab civilization and culture, and that keeps itself away from the nation's aspirations. It is regrettable that some people in this region are being dragged behind these misleading and false proposals.

Syria: Armed Forces Urged To Support al-Asad Position on Peace

JN0204201396 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1430 GMT 2 Apr 96

[From the "Weekly Political Bulletin" issued by the "Political Administration of the Army and Armed Forces"; date not given: "Israeli Delusions Will Not Come True"; from the "Voice of the Armed Voices" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] Arab and international political and media quarters strongly criticized the meetings of the Sharm al-Shakyh summit's follow-up committee held in Washington on 28 March, indicating that the United States is using these meetings and their results to promote Israeli interests and goals. The United States is allowing Israel to use these results as a cover

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

for its repressive practices against Arabs inside and outside the occupied territories. These quarters spoke of Israel's terrorist record, which is replete with massacres and crimes, the displacement of hundreds of thousands of people, and the bombardment of people with internationally banned explosives. This requires the international community to do some soul searching and point to the real terrorists, who deserve the utmost international condemnation, denunciation, and punishment.

Meanwhile, many countries, led by the United States, are turning deaf ears to Israel's crimes and barbarous, repressive practices and to its use of state terrorism. These practices call into question the credibility of this country on international issues, particularly the establishment of a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

The bulletin adds: Brother fighters: Syria under al-Asad is fully aware of the significant differences between criminal terrorism and legitimate national struggle, which is sanctioned under international law and human rights statutes. Such struggle is aimed at resisting aggression, liberating territories from occupiers and conquerors, and restoring usurped rights. This is why Syria has firmly supported such a struggle. It has not been bothered by the attempts to harm its position, which have reached the point of charging it with sponsoring terrorism. These attempts are aimed at pressuring it to abandon its principled positions toward national and pan-Arab causes and turn its back on honorable strugglers who are paying in blood to free their lands, restore their rights, and defend their nation's dignity.

As we said before, Syria under al-Asad has repeatedly called for an international conference to define terrorism and distinguish between terrorism and legitimate national struggle to ensure that these concepts are not confused. But, regrettably, some Arabs have begun to repeat the rhetoric promoted by Western and Zionist media. This rhetoric depicts Arab acts of resistance as terrorist operations, as Israel and the United States want it to be portrayed.

Syria has repeatedly said through its leader struggler President Hafiz al-Asad that it condemns real terrorism. Nevertheless, it is on the side of all strugglers who are defending their country's land. It will not accept seeing the Arabs whipped by the United States. We are referring to the talk about terrorism. We will not allow the United States to render some Arab regimes and governments mere tools assigned to protect Israel. Regardless of the arrests of hundreds of strugglers by Yasir 'Arafat, head of the Palestinian autonomy's police force, the struggle will continue and the number of strugglers will increase. There will be no peace unless the Palestinian Arab people regain their rights in full. It should be noted that Israel gives 'Arafat a list of those whom it wants arrested.

The bulletin concludes: Brother fighters, given all this, Syria under al-Asad will remain faithful to its pan-Arab commitments. It will remain committed to the peace process. It will continue to respond favorably to the international efforts aimed at achieving a just and comprehensive peace. Meanwhile, Israel has not desisted from its policy of intransigence, which is marked by relentless efforts to hamper the peace process.

It is our firm belief that Israel seeks to achieve a peace tailored to its own terms. But this will not come to pass, because it knows that our struggler President Hafiz al-Asad and our steadfast people are of a different mettle. It is aware of their insistence on international legitimacy, which must be the bedrock of any peace arrangement. They adhere to this type of peace and are willing to defend it. We in the Armed Forces must be aware of this fact, which should prompt us to increase the pace of our training, maintain our weapons, and maintain the highest possible degree of combat readiness in order to thwart the enemies' schemes, make them acquiesce to our wishes, and grant us our legitimate rights in full. We must implement the directives of our icon struggler President Hafiz al-Asad, who says: We are the champions of fairness and peace. Our willingness to wage struggle and make sacrifices to uphold fairness and achieve peace is great and without limits.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Afghanistan

Afghanistan: Taleban Rockets Injure 3 in Kabul

LD0204154796 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1430 GMT 2 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Benazir Bhutto's Taleban injured a number of Kabul citizens by firing rockets on 2 April.

BAKHTAR reported that the mercenary Taleban fired several rockets into the city's residential areas today, as a result of which, in addition to injuring three people, several residential houses were also damaged.

Afghanistan: U.S. Said To Be Sending Arms, Ammunition to Taleban

LD0204180596 Tehran IRNA in English 1723 GMT 2 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Zabol, Sistan Baluchestan Prov., April 2, IRNA — Some Afghan sources on Tuesday [2 April] disclosed that an American military convoy carrying U.S.-made weapons and military assistance is on its way for Kandahar via Quetta.

The Afghan local sources, who have witnessed the movement of the U.S. safeguarded vehicles in Afghaninstan's Helmand Province, added that they have also seen the American weapons and ammunition in the Chaman region.

Earlier reports had also confirmed the presence of foreign supervisors including Americans at the Taleban's camps and bases.

The Pakistani province of Baluchestan is known as one of the main centers of U.S. weapons and ammunition for giving support to the Taleban militia.

The Taleban group, which has been laying a siege to the enterance ways of Kabul during the past months, is reportedly preparing an all-out attack on the Afghan capital.

Bangladesh

Bangladesh: Army Begins Withdrawal From Dhaka, Chittagong

BK0304094396 Hong Kong AFP in English 0931 GMT 3 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] DHAKA, April 3 (AFP) — Troops started withdrawing from Dhaka and the southeastern port city of Chittagong Wednesday [3 April], two weeks after they were deployed to restore order amid politicial tension, defence sources said.

"The withdrawl was decided after consultation with President Abdur Rahman Biswas and Chief Advisor Justice Muhammad Habibur Rahman," one source said.

The decision came after army chief Lieutenant General Abu Saleh Muhammad Nasim held talks Tuesday with Biswas, the supreme commander of the armed forces.

The troops were deployed March 20 as part of "Operation Life-Link" on the orders of Khaleda Zia, who resigned as prime minister at the weekend, to restore "normalcy and supplies."

The order was given after Bangladesh was paralysed during an indefinite non-cooperation campaign organized by the opposition from March 9, which ended with the prime minister's resignation.

This was the second time the army had been deployed since general elections in February which were marred by violence and boycotted by the opposition.

The more than 100,000-strong army stayed out of the long-running political standoff between the opposition and Zia's government despite speculation they might step in. Formerly a prominent force in politics, the armed forces have taken a back seat since the restoration of democracy in Bangladesh in 1991.

In the key port city of Chittagong, Port Chairman Captain Zahiruddin Mahmud confirmed that naval troops were being withdrawn Wednesday and said the jam created by the opposition's action would be cleared within a week.

"The port is operating around the clock," he said.

India

India: Agreement Reached on Kremlin-PMO 'Hot Line'

BK3003141396 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 29 Mar 96 pp 1, 9

[Report by K.P.Nayar]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In a symbolic return to the days of Indo-Soviet friendship, a hot line is to be set up between the Kremlin and the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) in New Delhi.

An agreement to this effect, which will enable the Russian President and the Indian Prime Minister to be in constant touch and exchange views on international affairs, is to be signed during the visit of Russian foreign minister Yevgeni Primakov on Saturday here.

A hotline linked the Kremlin and the PMO during the balmy days of Indo-Soviet friendship under Leonid Brezhnev and Indira Gandhi. But in later years, as the priorities of the USSR changed and the state eventually disintegrated, the hot line fell into disuse and was later disconnected.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Officials of the Department of Telecommunications (DOT) have recently visited Russia for reviving the channel.

The hotline is part of an effort by the two governments to give more substance to their "strategic partnership". Both Moscow and New Delhi have been talking about a "strategic partnership" since Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao visited Moscow in mid-1994.

During Primakov's visit, both sides will make efforts to define this partnership and put it in the context of a spectacular improvement in their bilateral relations in the past two years.

Primakov is bringing with him deputy foreign minister Albert S Chernyshev who is being considered by the Kremlin for an appointment as Russia's next ambassador to New Delhi. The foreign minister will introduce Chernyshev to India's top political leadership as the ambassador-designate.

The proposal to appoint a deputy foreign minister as the next envoy is seen here as proof of Moscow's continued commitment to upgrading relations with India.

In the Soviet days, successive ambassadors to India were members of the powerful Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU). Chernyshev's nomination will signify a similar high-level policy interest in the Kremlin in relations with India.

The turnaround in Indo-Russian relations has made both sides confident enough to take a fresh look at President Boris Yeltsin's proposal for trilateral cooperation among India, China and Russia.

While no breakthroughs are expected during Primakov's visit, India may endorse such trilateral cooperation initially in areas such as combating terrorism and religious fundamentalism, issues of shared concern among all the three countries.

Of more immediate interest to India will be a Russian endorsement of India's bid for an Asian seat in the UN Security Council, for which election is to be held later this year. India is pitted against Japan for this seat.

While Russia has supported India's claim for a permanent seat in a restructured UN Security Council during bilateral talks, it is yet to endorse this claim in multilateral fora, such as the UN.

During Primakov's visit South Block will attempt to persuade Russia to support India's candidature in multilateral talks. If that happens, Russia will become the only permanent member of the Security Council to support this country's claim for permanent membership.

While nuclear non-proliferation, a comprehensive test ban and disarmament are not likely to figure in the talks, Central Asia and Afghanistan will take up a considerable portion of the dialogue with Primakov.

There is no structured agenda for the two-day talks with Primakov and the Indian side is taking the view that the visit itself is a message which ought not to be missed in this country.

Last time a foreign minister from Moscow made a bilateral visit to New Delhi was in 1980. Soviet foreign minister Andrei Gromyko had arrived here to brief Indira Gandhi on the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan and to congratulate her on returning to power.

Gromyko's successor, Eduardo Shevarnadze, visited India, but only as part of President Mikhail Gorbachev's delegation. Primakov's predecessor, Andrei Kozyrev, completed a full term as foreign minister without ever setting foot in India.

Primakov will meet not only External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee, but also the President, the Vice-President and the Prime Minister. He may also meet the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament, Atal Behari Vajpayee.

An agreement on cultural exchanges and another on academic exchanges are expected to be signed during the visit.

India: Scientists To Participate in Particle Accelerator Project

BK3103064896 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 30 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India has offered to participate in the probe of the ultimate structure or matter. The research is now being taken by the European Council for Nuclear Research in Geneva. The council, CERN [European Organization for Nuclear Research] is constructing the large [word indistinct] collider, the biggest particle accelerator ever constructed by high energy physicists. According to an agreement signed in New Delhi, Indian scientists will develop frontline technology to supply equipment and components to the most sophisticated international project of this century.

India: ISRO Chairman Views Potential of Satellite Launch Vehicle

BK3103105396 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 31 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The ISRO [Indian Space Research Organization] chairman has expressed confidence that the country's third generation satellite launch vehicle, PSLV [Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle], will be in

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

demand for launches from global satellite manufacturers. In an interview with UNI in Bangalore today, Dr. Kasturirangan said that there are not many vehicles of the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle class to put satellites into the lower earth or intermediate orbits. He said initial studies on the flight of the PSLV launched this month have shown that our own launch vehicles can be safely used to launch Indian remote sensing satellites.

India: 'Serious Concern' Expressed Over Pakistan's Nuclear Plans

BK0204145496 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 2 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New Delhi has expressed serious concern over Islamabad's relentless pursuit of its clandestine nuclear weapons program. The recent reports in the American press on Pakistan acquiring blueprints from foreign sources to build a nuclear bomb is yet another confirmation of Islamabad's objective. Responding to a question, an External Affairs Ministry spokesman said there is too much evidence now about Pakistan's nuclear weapons program and it will be dangerous for regional peace to equip that country with substantial conventional weapons.

India: Five 'Militants' Killed, 1 Surrenders in Kashmir

BK0204145996 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 2 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, one militant of the Hizbul Mujahidin outfit has surrendered before the Special Operation Group of the state police at Kupwara along with arms and ammunition.

Meanwhile, five militants and three other persons were killed, while security force apprehended six militants in various search operations and encounters during the last 24 hours. A large quantity of arms and ammunition was also recovered.

India: Pakistani Fake Currency 'Plot' Discovered

BK0204042896 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 2 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, the BSF [Border Security Force] has unearthed a plot by the ISI [Inter Service Intelligence] of Pakistan to undermine the Indian economy and currency by pushing into India fake Indian currency notes. A smuggler, Lakhwinder Singh of Amritsar, was arrested yesterday from near Bakarpur in Ranbirsinghpura sector and fake Indian currency worth 1.8 lakh rupees was recovered from his possession. He told the BSF that the money was to be used to lure youth toward militancy to cause disturbances in the wake of the Lok Sabha poll.

India: Report Details Navy's New Long-Range Missile Project

BK0304120896 Delhi BUSINESS STANDARD in English 1 Apr 96 p 5

[Report by M. Ahmed]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India has commenced work on a new long-range anti-ship missile similar to the Exocet, the French missile made famous during the Falklands and Gulf wars.

The Indian missile will have more teeth and range than the Exocet and will be capable of being launched from multiple platforms like aircraft, ships and even helicopters.

The missile project, whose name is not known, is part of new thrust by the defence research and development organisation (DRDO) to provide a technology boost to the Navy, the lowest funded wing of the Indian defence services.

It is expected to have a range in excess of 10 kms when launched from a ship and more than twice as much if launched from the air.

Besides the anti-ship missile, an improved version of the surface-to-air Akash missile especially designed for launch from naval platforms is under developments. The missile will be trained at incoming enemy air craft and missiles.

A large ballistic missile to be launched from submarines, called "Sagarika", has been under development over the past two years. The missile is in final stages of scale model testing and propulsion mechanisms are being developed.

The thrust on naval missiles is part of a shift in strategic thinking which advocates technology inputs to maintain the competitive edge of the cash-strapped navy.

The navy is not getting any new frigates, submarines and aircraft carriers and even its fleet of carrier-based Sea Harrier aircraft is getting old. There are no immediate plans to purchase either carriers or aircraft.

Sources said along with the missiles, plans are afoot to upgrade the radar, electronic warfare (EW) and communication system of the navy. The long-range reconnaissance aircraft of the navy, the Tu142, India's answer to the U.S. Orion P3c, which Pakistan is planning to buy, will be equipped with new EW and communication systems.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Naval ships will be equipped with satellite communication and special satcom terminal in extended C-band is being developed. The indigenously made land radar, Indra, is being upgraded for sea use with extended range and sensitivity. Missiles have been identified as the single most important component of the navy's armoury and funds have been especially allocated for naval missile development.

Unconfirmed reports say the budget for naval missile development and related systems is in excess of Rs [rupees] 100 crore. The budget is expected to be substantially raised as the project advances. The plans are to deploy the anti-ship and the naval Akash by 1999. The timeframe for the Sagarika missile is not known but is rumoured to be 2005.

Defence sources say the Sagarika is the "big one" and is said to be the most ambitious and technologically advanced missile programme on the DRDO's agenda. The technology for submarine launched missiles is very selective and rare. Only the U.S. has been successful with this.

Sources say a large infusion of anti-ship, anti-aircraft and anti-missile missiles will help carry the Indian Navy through the early part of the 21st century without significant modernisation of its naval platforms.

India: Government Appreciates Seizure of Arms by Bangladesh

BK0304055296 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 3 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India has appreciated the Bangladesh Government's action of seizing arms and ammunition meant for use by insurgent groups in the northeastern states of the country. While conveying the appreciation, India has offered all cooperation and support in curbing and containing the insurgent groups carrying arms from other countries through Bangladesh. The Indian Government said that such activities are prejudicial to both countries and they should cooperate in tackling this problem.

India: Minister Favors 'Zero Tariff' Access to Bangladesh Goods

BK0204154696 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 2 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The external affairs minister has stressed the need to further strengthen the transport and transit sector for expanding trade between India and Bangladesh. Addressing a seminar in New Delhi today, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee advocated giving Bangladesh the zero tariff access to Indian markets barring a few exceptions. Mr. Mukherjee's address was read out in his absence. He said the geographical proximity of the two countries should be used to promote bilateral trade.

India: Janata Dal National General Secretary Defects to BSP

BK3103081796 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 31 Mar 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Janata Dal has suffered yet another setback. The national general secretary of the party, Mr. Rashid Alvi, has joined the Bahujan Samaj Party [BSP]. Mr. Alvi announced his decision at a press conference in New Delhi yesterday.

The BSP leader, Mr. Kanshi Ram, who was present, indicated that his party will leave eight Lok Sabha seats in Uttar Pradesh [UP] for the breakaway state unit of the Janata Dal. As reported, the UP unit of the Janata Dal severed its relations with the central leadership yesterday. The leader of the faction, Mr. Ram Ashray Verma, announced that the breakaway party will be known as Uttar Pradesh Janata Dal.

India: Article Examines Muslim Vote in Elections

BK0304100096 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 31 Mar 96 p 12

[Article by Ahtesham Qureshy: "Which Way Will the Muslim Vote Go?"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The coming Lok Sabha elections are of great political significance for parliamentary democracy in India. They are of particular importance for Muslims, who constitute nearly 12 percent of the electorate, and will determine the fortunes of political parties and candidates in a large number of constituencies. It is because of the size of this section of the electorate, manifesting increasing consciousness of their vote-power that various political parties aspiring for power have been trying to gain or regain the support of the minority community for electoral gains.

The elections to the eleventh Lok Sabha to be held in April-May will be different from those held in the past, because of the newly sharpened focus on the issue of corruption among top political leaders. This would no doubt influence the mind of the average Muslim voter too. But, for him, the uppermost consideration is the future of the community, its economic prosperity, and the preservation of its Social, cultural and religious identity. Concern for physical security, or lack of security, has now become a secondary factor. This is the change in the Muslim psyche brought about after the demolition of the Babri Masjid in December 1992.

For one, there is no change in the anti-Congress mood of the Muslims in the northern, southern and western

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

states. In fact, the alienation has only widened. It is not just the demolition of the Babri Masjid. The community has overcome the shock. The reconstruction of the Masjid at Ayodhya is not an issue either, except for a few self-styled leaders and organisations which make an occasional demand. There are no illusions. The real question is the overall credibility of the Congress as a party Which has been in power for about 47 years, and the common Muslim view is that the party has betrayed the confidence and support it had enjoyed.

For the post-partition Muslims — which is more than 50 percent of the population — the highest attraction is for social justice and tangible benefits which promise to flow from reservation of opportunities for the backward classes. It however does not mean revival of the pre-partition Muslim League slogan of reservation. Today, the consideration is economic upliftment of the economically and educationally backward community. The inspiration obviously came from the Mandal Commission and its recommendations for the reservation of jobs in public service and of seats in educational institutions.

It is largely because of the frustration with the Congress and new attraction for the concept of reservations that the Muslims feel a gravitational pull towards the "third force", comprising the Janata Dal, Samajwadi Party of Mulayam Singh, the CPI [Communist Party of India] and CPI(M) [Communist Party of India (Marxist)]. In the Muslim perception, these parties and their stances on important issues like uniform civil code pose no threat to their socio-religious identity. People now assess the parties on the basis of their performance. It is in this context that they find the Samajwadi Party in Uttar Pradesh [UP], Janata Dal in Bihar and the Left Front in West Bengal and Kerala worthy of support at the parliamentary polls.

This support will of course vary from region to region or state to state. In Assam, for example, where the Muslims constitute more than 14 percent of the population, the choice might be difficult. There the ethnic strife and the contentious issue of "migrants" have been vital for the minority community. The Assom Gana Parishad has lost the support of the Muslims, and the Left Front has a marginal presence. There, the Congress might get the benefit.

There is an equally vocal section among educated Muslims who are against reservation, for both Political and social reasons. This section feels that the demand might unnecessarily generate hostility from the majority community. It repels the demand for the declaration of Muslims as a whole as a backward community. The demand for reservation of jobs would mitigate against the concept of self-respect, as it implies admission of being less than equals needing protection. The thrust of the argument is that it is a competitive world where a Muslim youth can find his or her place on the basis of merit. In the field of education they should strive for excellence.

There is an emerging group of people who do not want bulk support for any one political party or combination or alliance. They advocate "picking-and-choosing" of a candidate, irrespective of the political party to which he or she might belong. This new core group of politically conscious people, who want to shun publicity and propaganda, would quietly visit carefully selected parliamentary constituencies in Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and make an assessment of the various candidates in the poll arena. This group will then commend to the voters a candidate who in its view would serve the community and its cause better in Parliament. The object is to experiment with individuals, and not political parties. It is also intended to boost the prospects of the "winning horses" to pave the way for a large presence of Muslim members in the new Lok Sabha.

Another interesting feature of the 1996 parliamentary elections is that the Muslim community does not suffer from the complex of having no leadership. New leaders have been thrown up by local or state situations during the recent panchayat and municipal elections in the country. However, both P.V. Narasimha Rao and V.P. Singh have been contacting Muslim intellectuals and religious scholars like Maulana Abul Hassan Ali Nadvi (Ali Mian) in the hope that it might tilt the balance in favour of the congress or the Third Force at the time of polls. But Ali Mian has consistently avoided speaking on political matters, though there is no doubt about the respect he commands among the Muslims. Maulana Abdullah Bukhari of Delhi has lost his appeal — in whatever limited way it was exploited at the 1991 polls.

Maulana Ali Mian, though firmly apolitical, has however expressed his views on matters concerning the Muslim community in the country, and this would certainly influence the Muslim mind. Addressing a gathering in Deoband (UP) recently, he stressed that Muslims in the country should not bargain to live the life of "animals" who only need fodder and physical security for survival. Nor should they merge their lot with those whose ultimate aim of life is to win elections and reach Parliament. They should set a higher goal, of living in the country with all their traits and characteristics peculiar to their life and faith.

In terms of pure electoral strategy, leaders of the community are quite clear that the split of Muslim vote should be avoided at all costs. This is what was done

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

at the recent Panchayat polls in Uttar Pradesh, where there was a consolidation of Muslim support for the Samajwadi Party. The experiment done in Maharashtra, where the Muslims by force of political situation, had voted for the Shiv Sena-BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] candidates to defeat the Congress may not be repeated in view of the anti-Muslim steps taken by the Manohar Joshi government during the one year of power. Small parties like the Muslim League would have no relevance at the polls, except in Kerala. The breakaway Indira Congress led by N.D. Tiwari and Arjun Singh might draw limited support in States like Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Karnataka because of the anti-Narasimha Rao mood. The Congress on its part might try to exploit organisations of Imams in certain states though its utility is doubtful. The Bahujan Samaj Party in UP is in the category of a residuary, so far as the Muslim support is concerned.

India: Roundup of 2 April Reports on Election Developments

BK0204161696

[FBIS Report] Delhi All India Radio Network in English at 0830 GMT on 2 April carries election reports. A report on filing of nomination papers by well-known politicians states: "The prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha, today filed his nomination for the Nandayal Lok Sabha constituency in Andhra Pradesh. Two sets of nomination papers were filed on his behalf before the returning officer at Karnool today by the Congress-I MLA [member of the legislative assembly], Mr. Y. Pratap Reddy. Twelve nominations have been filed so far in this constituency from which Mr. Narasimha Rao is seeking reelection. The food processing industry minister, Mr. K.P. Singhdeo, also filed his nomination for the Dankanal parliamentary constituency in Orissa. The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] leader, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, has filed his nomination papers for the Lucknow Lok Sabha constituency in Uttar Pradesh. Four sets of papers were filed by him before the returning officer by him. The DMK [Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam] president, Mr. M. Karunanidhi, filed his nomination papers for the Tamil Nadu assembly from Chepauk constituency in central Madras."

Another report in the same newscast says: "Former union ministers, Mr. Bal Ram Jakhar and V.C. Shukla, have announced that they will contest Lok Sabha elections. According to an agency report, former union minister, Mr. Madhavrao Scindia, has also stated that he will file his nomination as an independent candidate from the Gwalior constituency. The Congress-I had announced yesterday that it will not give party tickets to the former ministers charge-sheeted in the hawala [illegal money transfer] case."

A report on parliamentary elections in Kashmir in the 0830 GMT newscast says: "The Jammu and Kashmir Panthers Party has decided to field candidates from five Lok Sabha constituencies of Anantnag, Srinagar, Baramula, Jammu-Punch, and Udhampur. The party president, Professor Bhim Singh, will contest from Udhampur constituency. The working committee of the Panthers Party has decided to support Mr. P. Nangial of the Congress-I in the Leh-Ladakh constituency. Releasing the list of candidates in New Delhi today, Professor Bhim Singh said counting of votes should be taken up simultaneously all over the country once the elections are over in Jammu and Kashmir. He said his party wants simultaneous [Kashmir state] assembly elections along with the Lok Sabha polls in the state."

Delhi All India Radio Network in English at 1230 GMT on 2 April carries more reports on elections. One report says: "the Janata Dal has formally split in Kerala with the formation of the Kerala Janata Dal under the chairmanship of Mr. Iyengir Sridharan. Talking to newsmen in Calicut today, Mr. Sridharan said that the party will field one candidate for the Lok Sabha and 10 for [state] assembly seats."

Another report in the 1230 GMT cast says: "Former BJP vice president, Mr. Arif Beg, joined the Congress-I today. Talking to newspersons at the AICC [All India Congress-I Committee] headquarters in New Delhi today, Mr. Beg said that his hopes for working for Hindu-Muslim unity by being in the BJP for the last 22 years have been belied. He alleged that there is no representation to the Muslims in the 450 seats that the BJP will be contesting in the Lok Sabha elections."

Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT reports more on Prime Minister Rao's filing of nomination papers for elections. The report says: "Mr. Narasimha Rao's papers were filed before the returning officer at Karnool for Nandayal at Andhra Pradesh and at Chattrapur for Behrampur seat in Orissa." The report adds: "The BJP has decided not to field any candidate against the prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, in Nandayal constituency of Andhra Pradesh. This was announced by the party national general secretary, Mr. Naidu, while talking to newsmen in Hyderabad today."

Delhi All India Radio Network in English at 1530 GMT on 2 April carries more reports on election developments. A report on Kashmir elections says: "In Jammu and Kashmir, 29 nominations were filed today, raising the total to 45. These include 18 nominations filed in Kashmir valley, of which 13 were filed today." The report adds: "three candidates filed their nominations for

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Srinagar parliamentary constituency and five for Anantnag parliamentary constituency today. With this the total number of nominations for the Srinagar seat has risen to seven and for Anantnag to eight. For Baramula, three nomination papers have been filed so far."

India: Two Ministers Resign To Contest Polls in Tamil Nadu

BK0304085496 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 3 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The commerce minister, Mr. P. Chidambaram, and the minister of state for industry, Mr. M. Arunachalam, have resigned from the union council of ministers. An official spokesman said in New Delhi today that their resignation letters have been sent to the president by the prime minister for acceptance. They are to contest Lok Sabha elections on the TMC [Tamil Manila Congress]-Moopanar party ticket. The party released its second list of eight candidates for the Lok Sabha and eight candidates for the assembly elections today.

Iran

Iran: Commentary Criticizes UK's Policy on Policial Asylum Case

LD0204140796 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 2 Apr 96

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Saudi Government, for the second time during the past five months, has warned Britain that in case it does not expel Mohammed al-Masa'ari, one of the opponents of Riyadh, the two countries' trade and military ties will sour.

The Saudi ambassador in London, in his Monday, 2 April interview with BBC television announced that if the British Government does not expel al-Mas'ari, who heads the Committee for the Defense of the Legal Rights of the Saudi Arabian Nation, it will lose millions of pounds from the contracts in selling arms to that country.

Five months ago when the British foreign secretary visited Saudi Arabia, the Riyadh officials had warned him on the issue. They even suspended some of the pacts with London. However, it seems that the measure of the British Home Office in issuing an order for the expulsion of al-Mas'ari, who since 1994 had called for political asylum, has somehow improved their relations.

Meanwhile the British public opinion and press slammed the move and called it the victimization of political freedoms in return for profits of arms companies. On the other hand, the court of Britain has called on the Home Office to review the expulsion order. Meanwhile, the fresh warnings of Saudi Arabia is viewed as further pressures of the Riyadh government against London, so that the British officials will follow the case more seriously.

It seems that London has far more economic and military interests in relations with Saudi Arabia than jeopardizing them [sentence as heard]. London has managed to win more arms sales and contracts to Saudi Arabia than its rivals, the United States and France. Meanwhile, the British officials are involved in negotiations with [the] Saudis for the sale of billions of armaments such as airplanes, tanks, armored vehicles, and different vessels.

However, observers note the double-standard policy of London and its use from the foreign countries' opponents there. According to observers, London officials take a lot of propaganda advantage from the presence of the opponents in Britain, claiming that it is pro-democracy and human rights. Britain, also, through granting refuge to the opponents, plans to keep its influence in these countries, or even increase it, if these opponents manage to hold any posts in their countries. Based on this same policy, London has so far granted asylum to opponents of some Arab countries, including Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Iraq, and so on. But due to the incessant warnings of [the] Saudis, It is expected that the British decisionmakers prefer the interests of arms companies to issues such as democracy and human rights, despite calls of opposition by the British public opinion.

Iran: UK Bill To Expand Anti-Terrorist Measures Noted

LD0204123996 Tehran IRNA in English 1224 GMT 2 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] London, Apr. 2, IRNA — Emergency legislation was being rushed through Parliament Tuesday [2 April] to give police greater powers to stop and search people and to inspect vehicles and goods coming into the country.

The British Government has maintained that the new measures are necessary before this weekend's 60th anniversary of the Irish uprising in Dublin, but civil liberty groups have criticised the move as infringing basic individual rights.

The main opposition Labor Party has said it will support the legislation amending the 1974 Prevention of Terrorism Act, but other politicians have warned of the danger of sweeping ill-thought out measures through Parliament within 14 hours.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Home Secretary Michael Howard, announcing the move Monday, claimed that the UK was facing a "real threat of a continuing IRA campaign" following the ending of its ceasefire two months ago.

But deputy leader of Northern Ireland's nationalist SDLP, Seamus Mallon, described the proposed expansion of police powers as "underhand in the extreme" and questioned why it was not mentioned when renewing anti-terrorism laws last month.

The far-reaching measures, he said, would affect the communities in Britain as much as Northern Ireland, "without any notice, analysis, consultation or amendment."

Some politicians also questioned the timing of the move coming less than two months before elections are due to be held to pave the way for the much-delayed start of all-party peace talks.

Civil (?liberal) groups argued that the police had already sufficient powers and that existing legislation had not proved successful in the campaign against terrorism.

Director of Liberty Group, John Wadham, was quoted by the INDEPENDENT newspaper Tuesday saying six hundred people were arrested under the 1974 emergency powers last year but "not one of them was convicted of any offence."

Concern was also expressed about the government being able to force through legislation in the absence of a bill of rights, bearing in mind that Britain has already been found to be in breach of human rights from its existing anti-terrorism laws.

The new measures will enable police to stop and search pedestrians for terrorism items and will do away with the need for a search warrant if they have intelligence suggesting weapons are stored inside a building.

Power to cordon off areas where there is said to be a terrorist threat will also be put on a formal footing, while increased powers will be given to search vehicles and goods coming into the UK.

Iran: Sarmadi Views Ties to Arabs, U.S. Policy

NC0204160296 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 29 Mar 96 p 12

[Report on interview with Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Morteza Sarmadi by Qutb al-'Arabi in Tehran; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] AL-SHA'B has met with Morteza Sarmadi, Iranian deputy foreign minister and one of the senior decisionmakers in Iran. The interview dealt with various topics.

At the outset of the interview, Sarmadi explained his country's stance on the Palestinian issue and the Islamic Resistance operations in the occupied land. Sarmadi said that the west exploited the weakness of the Arab and Islamic world after the invasion of Kuwait. The United States hastened to conclude an unjust settlement in view of these circumstances. He noted that the Palestinian people could not obtain their rights as a result of this settlement and the refugee issue has been neglected.

The Iranian official added: The armed resistance operations in the occupied territories are purely the fruit of this unjust and incomprehensive peace. This problem cannot be solved by accusing others outside Palestine. Also, accusing Iran of terrorism is linked to the elections in the United States and Israel. The western world believes that the settlement process is proceeding well, but that there are external obstacles impeding this process. We, however, believe that the settlement project entails many internal, not external, problems. We are not obstructing this process, but we want to restate that the project itself is not fit for peace.

[Al-'Arabi] What efforts did the Iranian diplomacy make to circumvent the impact of the Sharm al-Shaykh summit?

[Sarmadi] We do not believe that this issue requires huge or additional efforts. Once again, the United States and Israeli claim that there are external obstacles impeding the peace process. They accuse Iran of being behind that. The United States and Israel are trying to mislead the world public . However, we are trying to prove that the problem lies in the process itself. We made efforts to expose the U.S.-Zionist position. These efforts were culminated in our meetings with the EU envoys, the president's statements, and the foreign minister's visits to foreign countries.

[Al-'Arabi] Do you have any plan to confront possible U.S. operations against Iran?

[Sarmadi] We believe that all the U.S. practices against Iran are actually not directed against Iran alone. The United States wants to become the leader of the new world order. Under such circumstances, Iran is only one of the obstacles. After the recent developments in the world, it is difficult for any state to accept U.S. hegemony. Even the U.S. allies in Europe are not prepared to accept U.S. decisions which do not serve their interests. China opposed this policy and Russia also opposed it after regaining its vigor. Moreover, there are new powers in the world which do not accept U.S. hegemony.

Our policy is based on explaining new situations and exchanging views with these countries in a bid to prove

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

that a U.S.-led new world order will not succeed. Our foreign policy has been successful in this regard.

We believe that U.S. foreign policy toward Iran is not profound; but rather confined to certain objectives based on the Israeli perspective only. The United States views the situation in the Middle East and Iran from Israel's perspective. This confirms that the official in charge of Iran's desk at the Israeli foreign ministry is the one—not Clinton or Christopher—who plans U.S. foreign policy toward Iran. This is something unacceptable and humiliating from a state which claims to be the world's leader.

[Al-'Arabi] What about relations between Egypt and Iran?

[Sarmadi] Egypt is an important Arab and Islamic country. We do not accept any weakening of Egypt's role in the Arab and Islamic world for the benefit of Israel's role. But Egypt itself must realize the important status it enjoys. The Americans view Egypt as a tool for solving their problems. They do not view it as a country that has important status and prestige in the world. We believe if Egypt understands its status and strategic significance and use them in the service of the Islamic world, then relations can be bolstered with Egypt for the benefit of the Islamic world.

[Al-'Arabi] There are two views on how Egyptian-Iranian relations could improve. Iran wants these relations to improve in the cultural sphere, while Egypt wants them to improve in the political sphere. What is your view?

[Sarmadi] There is good cooperation between Iran and Egypt at international conferences and organizations. There is cooperation on such issues as disarmament and human rights and at the Organization of the Islamic Conference and the Non-Aligned Movement.

[Al-'Arabi] How do you believe Egyptian-Iranian relations can improve?

[Sarmadi] When Egypt comprehends its real role and status, there will be other areas for cooperation.

[Al-'Arabi] Will the outcome of the recent Iranian parliamentary elections affect Iran's foreign relations, especially with the Arab world?

[Sarmadi] Our policy has always been based on developing relations with Arab countries in general and the Gulf countries in particular. We have the desire to develop these relations, but there have been foreign obstacles and the United States has interfered and put pressure on the Arab countries. Therefore, we have not received the appropriate response to our desire. We feel the importance of cooperation between Arab and Islamic countries. We believe it is important for the Arab and Islamic worlds to have an important role in the new world order. All our efforts are focused in this direction. But the United States does not want this role for the Islamic world. It wants to monopolize this role for itself in order to control the world and impose Israel's cultural, political, and economic hegemony on the Arab region.

[Al-'Arabi] When Eritrea invaded the Yemeni Hanish island, Iran did not adopt a firm stand against it. What is the reason?

[Sarmadi] Immediately after the occupation occurred, the Iranian Foreign Ministry issued an official statement defending Yemen and asking the two sides to show self-restraint and not to give an excuse to other parties to interfere. We urged the two sides to solve the problem peacefully and not with war. Naturally, as long as Israel exists in the heart of the Arab region, it will not stop creating problems with a view to imposing its final control, either through occupation of land or through control of minds and culture in the Arab and Islamic worlds.

[Al-'Arabi] After the Jerusalem and Tel Aviv bombings, Iran's relations with Europe suffered a setback. What are the prospects for these relations?

[Sarmadi] Our relations with Europe have not suffered a setback. Our relations with Europe are based on mutual interests and are proceeding forward. Europe found out that the United States did not leave any opportunities for it after the second Gulf war. The United States has not given Europe any role in the Middle East peace talks. It has restricted Europe's role to that of a fund-raiser. Europe wants to be a strong partner in international affairs. It wants to pursue an independent policy. One of the indications of this independent policy is its dealings with Iran.

The more independent Europe becomes the more its role grows. I believe Europe is aware of its role. Through cooperation and understanding with Iran these relations will move forward. If Europe wants to have a role in the oil-rich Gulf region, or in Asia, or in the Caucasus, it cannot ignore Iran's important role in these regions.

Iran: Kazakh Foreign Minister Arrives in Tehran on 3-Day Visit

LD0204180896 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 2 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The foreign minister of Kazakhstan arrived in Tehran this afternoon at the head of a senior political and economic delegation on an official

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

three-day visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran. He was met by Iran's Foreign Minister Velayati.

During this trip, the Kazakh foreign minister will be talking with our country's officials about expanding and strengthening political and economic relations between Iran and Kazakhstan and regional cooperation. Cooperation between Tehran and Almaty in the spheres of oil and gas is important to the two countries, and, since Kazakhstan is confident about the resources and capabilities of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the oil industry, sees cooperation between the two countries as positive and constructive.

Iran: Velayati, Kazakh Foreign Minister Discuss Ties, Cooperation

LD0304123596 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 3 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The expansion and strengthening of cooperation, the increasing of regional cooperation, and other issues of mutual interest were discussed at a meeting in Tehran this morning between the foreign ministers of Iran and Kazakhstan.

At the meeting Mr. Qasymzhomart Toqayev, Kazakh foreign minister, praised the Islamic Republic of Iran for its outstanding and important role on the international scene, in helping solve regional crises and creating communication facilities for the development of the economy of the region.

He referred to Iran's resources and experience in the oil industry and the importance his country attached to oil cooperation with Iran. He stressed the necessity for finalizing the agreement between the two countries on Iran taking delivery of Kazakh oil on the Caspian Sea and delivering an equivalent amount to Kazakhstan at a southern Iranian port.

Mr. Velayati referred to the importance of Tehran-Almaty ties. He said those ties have been based on correct and solid principles.

He stressed the necessity for finding a way for the continuation of all-round talks between the two countries' officials, particularly the continuation of regional and international diplomatic consultations.

Iran: Rafsanjani Holds Talks With Kazakh Foreign Minister

LD0304120796 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 3 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Kazakh foreign minister [Qasymzhomart Toqayev] was received by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani today. Mr. Toqayev conveyed the warmest greetings of Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev and said: The inauguration of the Tehran-Mashhad-Tezhen railway is of strategic importance for the entire region and it will provide extensive opportunities for the expansion of economic and commercial cooperation with Middle Eastern countries.

He expressed gratitude for the work done by the Islamic Republic of Iran to make the Tehran-Mashhad-Tezhen railway operational and said: Due to the special importance he attaches to this project, the Kazakh president will be taking part in the inauguration ceremony for this railway.

The Kazakh foreign minister called for the greatest possible expansion of ties and cooperation between Kazakhstan and the Islamic Republic of Iran and said: Iran is seen as one of Kazakhstan's good friends in the Middle East in view of its great economic and commercial capabilities in the region and its principled stances in international organizations, and we believe that, with the expansion of bilateral ties, especially in the fields of transport, energy, banking, and the use of the Caspian Sea's resources, the relations between the two countries have entered a new historical phase.

He also presented a report about the outcome of the recent four- sided meeting that was held by Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan in Moscow.

At the meeting, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed the importance that the Islamic Republic of Iran attaches to strengthening its ties with Central Asian countries and said: Long-term and stable cooperation between Iran and Russia and the countries of the region plays a fundamental and important role in consolidating peace and calm throughout the region, and the Islamic Republic of Iran supports the establishment, preservation, and consolidation of peace in the region.

The president enumerated the measures taken by the Islamic Republic of Iran for the expansion of air, land, and sea links with the countries of Central Asia and said: The creation of large ports on the Caspian Sea, the expansion of roads and railways, making two-way oil pipelines from the north to the south of Iran for the purpose of oil transit and exports via Iran and the project to make the Tehran-Mashhad railway two-directional along 1,000 km are among the measures taken or being taken by Iran for the provision of the required facilities for the expansion and development of the economy and trade of the countries of the region.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Iran: Commentary Views EU Delegation's Visit, Terrorism Issue

LD0204184096 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1652 GMT 2 Apr 96

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] During a visit to Iran, representatives of the European Union [EU] will discuss mutual ties with the Iranian authorities. At the talks, representatives of Italy, Spain, and Ireland — the current, past, and future presidents of the EU — intend to seek Iran's views on the progress of the so-called peace talks in the Middle East. [passage omitted]

In late Esfand [20 February to 19 March 1996] and on the eve of the Sharm al-Shaykh conference, the foreign ministers of the EU member countries decided in Palermo, Italy, to send a delegation to Tehran to learn the official view of the Iranian Government on terrorism. On the eve of the EU delegation's visit to Tehran, the EU spokesman said: The EU intends to add Iran to the list of countries in support of opposing terrorism, particularly since that country has suffered from terrorism.

Two years ago Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, our country's president, wrote a letter to the heads of the EU, declaring our country's official stand in rejecting terrorism and pointing out that the Islamic Republic of Iran condemns terrorism in any form and for any motive, and that it has been a victim of terrorist actions at various levels.

Of course, there is no dispute between Iran and Europe regarding the principle of condemning terrorist actions. However, alongside the United States and Israel, Europe insists on condemning the Islamic and popular struggles of the Palestinians in the occupied lands as terrorist phenomena. [passage omitted] Meamwhile, currently in many European countries, among noted political figures and national heroes are people who fought the occupiers during the German invasion and against the occupation of their country. [passage omitted]

In any case, admitting the truth and adopting a just stand would be effective in the establishment of peace in the region. And that important task could not be achieved except through the realization of the rights of the Muslims and the tortured people of Palestine.

Iran: Editorial Views EU Delegation's Visit

LD0304101496 Tehran IRNA in English 0940 GMT 3 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, April 3, IRNA — The Persian daily 'IRAN' Wednesday [3 April] commented on the visit of the European Union (EU) delegation to Tehran saying that the team has come to hear Iran's viewpoints regarding various international developments.

As to the benefit of such meetings, the editorial stressed that, the important point is that the two sides should be "explicit, serious and independent."

Asking Iran for an outright and strong condemnation of terrorism is not out of place provided that the issue is tackled impartially and that the real victims of terrorism are identified, the editorial added.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has been suffering from acts of terrorism and has been a victim of terrorist acts as a result of which many high-ranking Iranian officials have lost their lives, added the paper.

Referring to explosion of Prime Minister's Office, Islamic Repulbic Party Headquarters and a number of holy places and shrines in Iran, the editorial asked whether agents behind such criminal and terrorist acts have been condemned by the Zionist regime or on the contrary have enjoyed financial and political support of the Zionist regime.

Referring to biased Israeli accusations against the Islamic Republic, the paper called on the EU to produce any document proving Iran's involement in explosions inside Israel.

Iran: Velayati Receives European Union Delegation

LD0304110196 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 3 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Representatives of the European Union [EU], at a meeting in Tehran today with Foreign Minister Velayati, referred to the importance of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the region. They stressed the importance of the continuation of bilateral talks.

At the meeting the Italian deputy foreign minister, as the current EU president, together with the representatives of the European Commission and Spain, as the former president, and Eire, the forthcoming president of the EU, pointed out the importance the EU attaches to ties with Iran as an important and key country in the Persian Gulf region.

The EU representatives said that the role of the Islamic Republic of Iran cannot be overlooked in regional equations. They described the outcome of the talks between the threesome and the Islamic Republic of Iran as positive. They added: The threesome is opposed to isolating Iran.

At the meeting Mr. Velayati said those who thought up the policy of a two-pronged approach [mahar-e dojanabeh] are the main losers in the region. He added:

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

As an important collection, Europe should pursue an independent policy in its ties with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

He said relations between Iran and Europe were beneficial to both sides. He pointed out the importance of the continuation of talks, based on mutual respect and common interests.

The two sides also discussed the Mideast talks and terrorism. Our country's foreign minister said Iran is itself a victim of terrorist actions, and opposed terrorism in any form and anywhere, be it private or state. He criticized the double-standards applied to terrorism. He said: When our president, prime minister, head of judiciary and Majlis deputies were assassinated, not one western country sent a message of condolences.

Iran: Repercussions of U.S. Foreign Debt Discussed

NC0304072496 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 3 Apr 96

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentary Group]

[FBIS Translated Text] As we heard on the news last night and today, the U.S. Government debt has reached a new high. According to a report by the U.S. Treasury, the U.S. debt has surpassed the $5-trillion mark and is up to $5.029 trillion. There is no doubt that these unprecedented and heavy debts expose the U.S. Administration to problems in managing the country and in establishing economic and commercial relations with the rest of the world.

Moreover, as we have seen, these debts lead to increased disagreement between the Democrats and the Republicans. Late last [Iranian] year [ending 20 March 1996], America witnessed unprecedented developments in relation to this when large sections of the U.S. government were closed down for lengthy periods of time.

The closeness of the elections and the intensification of the party rivalries inevitably become linked with America's heavy debts, and each party blames the other for having destroyed the economy. According to various assessments, the American society and people are not in a position to tolerate the country's economic problems any more or to continue to play a major role in furnishing the government's expenditures.

Meanwhile, America's global efforts for selling arms and other American products and, as a result, its efforts to reduce its heavy debt have not been very successful. In its defense and by creating tension in the oil-rich areas, America has returned many of the petrodollars to America through the heavy sale of arms and has created even heavier expenditures for its consumer-stricken society.

Actually, economic and political experts foresee two different scenarios on the basis of the information on the American economy. The first is that in the current [Iranian] year [beginning 20 March 1996] and in the coming months, Washington will begin new efforts to continue to aggravate regional wars and to put its economic rivals under pressure, and it will, thus, sell more arms by extorting its economic rivals. The second forecast is that with the intensification of the differences between the two American parties and the increased intensity of Washington's economic situation, an obvious decline in the economy, trade, and politics will be seen. This is at a time when the grounds for the emergence of revolts in America have been prepared.

At any rate, America's unprecedented $5-trillion debt is not something that can be taken lightly nor can its strong repercussions and shocks be ignored.

Iran: Official Cited on Production, U.S. 'Pressure'

NC0304084496 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 29 Mar 96 p 12

[Report on an interview with Engineer Ahmad Dust, assistant Iranian industry minister, by Qutb al-'Arabi; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] AL-SHA'B met Engineer Ahmad Dust, Iranian assistant industry minister, who explained to us the development of Iranian industry during the revolution era.

He said: Before the revolution Iranian industry relied on assembly, assisted by foreign expertise. But things have changed and all the experts, directors, engineers, and workers now are Iranians. Most of the machinery and equipment that was made abroad before the revolution is now made in Iran. The State used to import raw material from abroad. Today we get it inside Iran. There were no Iranian exports before the revolution. Today, after meeting the demands of the local market, they amount to over $1 billion. God willing, exports will rise 15 percent. Agricultural and industrial companies' measures to strengthen their infrastructure were pursued after the revolution. Most of the fruit crops would rot before the revolution but now we export a lot of fruit.

Engineer Dust added: We plan not to depend on oil as a primary source of wealth, since we have forests, fish, copper, and carpet industries. Rather than export crude oil we have developed the petrochemical industry. Petrochemical production was under 1 million tons in 1989 but reached over 7 million tons in 1996 and

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

will reach 11 million in the year 2000; we increased production tenfold in 10 years.

The same thing happened with steel and cement. Six years ago cement production totaled 12 million tons. Now it has risen to over 16 million tons. Production will reach 25 million tons in the next five years.

As for ceramics, production in 1989 was 20 million square meters. It has now reached 40 million square meters. Production will rise to 60 million meters in the next five years. Now we can export 50 percent of our ceramics production. We used to import ceramics before the revolution. The same story applies to porcelain and steel.

We asked: What about the automobile and aircraft industries?

Dust said: We have decided that in the next 10 years the local market will use only Iranian cars. Aircraft production requires high technology. We are now holding negotiations on manufacturing civilian aircraft. (He refused to give details on this subject)

We are now importing and exporting cars. We do not want to force Iranian citizens to buy only Iranian cars. We have produced 80 percent of the components of the Iranian car, the Baykan, at home. We will produce 100 percent of this car's components at home within two years. We have concluded contracts with the French Peugeot and Renault, Mazda, and the Korean Daewoo. Our main goal in these contracts is to acquire technology. Daewoo produces cars in Iran and we export cars on its behalf.

We asked: Is there American pressure on the Western companies to terminate their contracts with Iran?

Dust replied: Since the start of the [Iranian Islamic] revolution the United States has tried to destroy Iranian industry. But this pressure has ultimately been in the interest of national industry. The United States is trying to stop the flow of foreign capital [into Iran] and to terminate the contracts [between Iran and foreign companies]. There are two parties to each contract. If the United States puts pressure on European countries, they suffer. If France or Germany give in and refuse to deal with Iran, there are other countries willing to cooperate. U.S. harassment certainly creates problems for us but we can face them.

We asked: What is the scope of cooperation with European countries? Is this cooperation sufficient for Europe to reject U.S. pressure?

Dust told us: Our dealings with Europe are diversified, especially our dealings with Germany, France, and Italy. This cooperation makes these countries fight U.S. pressure. The French Total is still working in oil extraction projects in the south of the country. It has refused to acquiesce to U.S. pressure to stop operations. It is known that the U.S. Conoco won this contract but President Clinton intervened and put pressure on the company to withdraw. The French Total immediately agreed to replace it.

We put it to Dust: Do you have a plan to face a complete U.S.- Western blockade?

Dust noted: We are prepared to have dealings with any country. We cooperate with many countries. We know their sensitivity to these issues and deal with them accordingly. For instance, during the shah's era, we started building the Bushehr [nuclear] reactor. Germany refused to complete it. We adopted a special program to generate electricity from water, steam, and other sources. Thank God, we now have plenty of electricity to cover Iran although the Bushehr reactor has not been completed. We know our country's needs and resources.

We put it to him: What about industrial cooperation with Egypt and other Islamic countries?

Dust replied: This cooperation is weak right now. We can develop relations in the economic and industrial fields. In the field of sugar cane processing, we are holding a dialogue with Egypt to build seven factories [in Iran]. We have begun building two factories in Khuzestan. We want to establish strong relations with all the Islamic countries. We are building a cement plant in Libya. Although we have good expertise in petroleum, textiles, and petrochemicals, we also need the expertise of others in these fields.

Iran: Rafsanjani Congratulates Presidents of Sudan, Sierra Leone

LD0304083996 Tehran IRNA in English 0703 GMT 3 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, April 3, IRNA — President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani here Wednesday [3 April], in separate messages, congratulated coming to office of his Sudanese and Sierra Leonean counterparts.

In his message to Sudanese President 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, the president hoped that the existing friendly relations between the two countries will be further strengthened.

The president also expressed hope that while the Sudanese Muslim nation and government are resisting plots masterminded and pressures exerted by global arrogance, the country will go ahead with its construction and development plans and programs.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

In a separate message to the president of Sierra Leone, President Rafsanjanai expressed hope that bilateral relations will be further expanded in all fields.

Iran: Official Praises New Legislation on Free Trade Areas

LD0204143296 Tehran IRNA in English 1421 GMT 2 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, April 2, IRNA — Managing-director of the free trade areas organization, Behruz Bushehri said here on Tuesday [2 April] the legislation passed by the Majles today on Iranian free trade zones would remove a main obstacle in the way of foreign investments in the free trade areas.

In an interview with IRNA, he said the legislation has provided security for investors and removed the obstacle hindering the transfer and conversion of foreign currencies in free trade zones.

According to the new legislation, entry of hard currencies from the free trade zones to the mainland is free but the outflow of hard cashes to those areas would be subject to the regulations of the Central Bank of Iran (CBI).

Bushehri said four billion dollars worth of foreign investment are due to be made in Iranian free trade areas, hoping that the new law would help expedite the process of foreign investment.

Iran: Interior Ministry Official Cites Figures on Refugees

LD0204172996 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 2 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The director general of Interior Ministry Aliens Department has announced: This year the Islamic Republic of Iran will refrain from accepting refugees, except in urgent cases where the refugees have political problems.

Mr. Hoseyni said that 1,344,000 Afghan nationals left Iran last year. He added: At present, there are 1,426,000 foreign nationals in Iran, some of whom are in the process of leaving the country.

Nepal & Bhutan

Nepal: 'Mysterious Disease' Spreads in West

LD0304122096 Tehran IRNA in English 1044 GMT 3 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New Delhi, April 3, IRNA-PTI-pool — A mysterious disease which have already claimed more than 200 lives, is fast spreading in western Nepal.

The disease which is yet to be identified, starts with higher fever and headache, kills the victim within four to five days, the health minister, Arjun Narsing K.C. said.

The official death figure is at 75.

Meanwhile, a report from Bajura District said the district alone have lost 162 people to this dreaded disease. Fifty people died in Kailashmandu, while 20 died in Iahamtola, nine in Jukot, nine in Kada and 10 in toll village development committee.

The unknown disease is also spreading in Achham district where 47 people were reported killed.

The health minister, who visited the affected areas of Jajarkot and Achham, said necessary medicines, doctors and health assistants had already been sent there. A medical camp with 20 doctors and para medical staff, has also been set up, Narsing said.

"The mysterious disease broke out two month ago but we knew about it very late", the director general of health services, Kalyan Pandey was quoted as saying in a report here today.

Pakistan

Pakistan: Altaf Group 'Terrorist' Killed in Encounter in Karachi

BK2903163796 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 29 Mar 96

[FBIS Translated Text] An Altaf Group terrorist, Yamin, alias Kumar, was killed today in an encounter with the Karachi police in the Gulbahar police station's jurisdiction. The police had encircled the area after a tip that some terrorists were present there. The criminals began firing on the police party, injuring one constable, who was admitted to a hospital. The police returned fire, killing one criminal, who was later identified as Yamin, alias Kumar. The police recovered a Kalashnikov rifle from the criminal, with a fully loaded magazine and five cartridges. The terrorist, Yamin, was wanted by the police for 30 heinous crimes, including murders and attacks against the police. A reward of 1 million rupees had been placed on his head.

Pakistan: London Begins Monitoring MQM Chief's Activities

BK0204123396 Islamabad KHABRAIN in Urdu 2 Apr 96 pp 1, 4

[Report by Fayyaz Walana]

[FBIS Translated Text] Proof of MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement] chief Altaf Hussain's involvement in terror-

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

ist and subversive activities given to the UK Government by Pakistan have been accepted as authentic. The UK Government has employed a specially trained squad from intelligence agencies to monitor Altaf Hussain's activities. It has also asked the Pakistan government to present more detailed evidence.

The latest message received by the British Home Department affirms the information provided earlier about Altaf Hussain. The British Government has also started monitoring Altaf Hussain. It also says Altaf Hussain's activities are not considered usual anymore. His contacts within the UK and abroad are being carefully watched. A special squad of British secret agencies has been appointed to watch his activities and that of his close associates in England. The Pakistan Government has been asked to immediately provide all proof of Altaf Hussain's direct or indirect involvement in terrorist and subversive activities. The UK Government will make a final decision on Altaf Hussain's deportation after receiving more evidence.

Pakistan: MQM Head Urges People To Eliminate 'Tyrants'

BK0304092996 Karachi AMN in Urdu 18 Mar 96 pp 1, 5

["Text" of an "open letter" from Muhajir Qaumi Movement leader Altaf Hussain to his countrymen written in London on 16 March]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] My dear countrymen: Peace be with you. I, Altaf Hussain, your fellow citizen and brother living in exile in a foreign country, thousands of miles away from my motherland and compatriots, will once again address you through this letter. I address you with the hope that you will seriously consider the entreaties and ponder the facts described in this letter and will come forward to differentiate between truth and falsehood and pronounce tyranny as tyranny, and help the oppressed. I hope you will raise your voices of protest to eliminate the tyrants, identify the oppressors, and will not hesitate in waging a practical struggle against them. Your active participation in the struggle is once again needed for the country's survival and integrity and security. [passage omitted]

My patriotic Pakistani brethren, on 19 June 1992, a military operation was launched in the urban areas of Sindh against those people and their sons and daughters who had waged a relentless struggle for Pakistan, who had offered sacrifices in men and material in the same manner in which military action was taken against our fellow Muslims in the former East Pakistan. That bloody game, which was initiated by General Asif Nawaz, is not only continuing today but is also becoming more severe in its intensity and scale with each passing day. To justify this outrageous and inhuman military operation, the same old conspiratorial tactics are being applied. They were used before and after the military operation in the former East Pakistan. To win the favor of the innocent people of Punjab, Gen. Asif Nawaz had declared that he was proud of being a "Punjabi." His statement did not evoke any objection from the writers and columnists whose pens began pouring venom at the very mention of the word "Muhajir." Services of journalists and intellectuals — who sell their conscience and who are on the payrolls of government agencies — were utilized in connection with the anti-Muhajir operation also. These journalists were made to write false, sensational, and cooked-up stories and articles to make the gullible readers believe that the unjustifiable military operation launched against the Muhajirs is justified and also to make the Pakistani people, especially the people of Punjab, believe that the Muhajirs are traitors and their representative party, the Muhajir Qaumi Movement [MQM], is an antinational group. Some military officers did not only utilize the services of these intellectuals and journalists who sell the voice of their conscience for money but also hatched various conspiracies to mislead the people of Pakistan.

One of the reprehensible conspiracies that came to be known as "Jinnahpur" [an independent state for the Muhajirs] was fabricated by a military officer, Brigadier Asif Haroon. My dear Pakistani brothers, the purpose of that conspiracy was to create misgivings in the minds of the people, especially those of the Punjab Province, about the MQM and the Muhajirs. The simple-hearted people of Punjab have been used by different rulers and influential personalities in the name of Pakistan and Islam to serve their own selfish interests. In fact, the rulers and political jugglers fully well understand that "Pakistan" is the weakness of the people of Punjab, that they are so much attached to Pakistan that they are not ready to hear even a word against this country. That is why whenever shrewd and crafty rulers want to take any action against a section or group, they try to win the support and confidence of the people of Punjab. They do that by branding the concerned section or group as traitors, Indian agents, and the enemies of Pakistan. Whenever such allegations are leveled by an army general, the people of Punjab consider them to be more credible. There has hardly been a leader in this country who has not been accused of being antinational or an Indian agent. Khan Abdul Wali Khan was branded as an antinational and traitor. Even Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto was declared antinational and an Indian agent. What is more interesting is that the officers of same military agency, who made many accusations against Benazir Bhutto and the Pakistan

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

People's Party [PPP], now salute Benazir Bhutto day in and day out. Very few leaders from Punjab have been accused of being Indian agents or antinational. Ghulam Mustafa Khar is the most notable among those leaders but now he is also a member of the Federal Cabinet. Recently, a minister of the Benazir Bhutto cabinet accused opposition leader Nawaz Sharif of being an agent of the Indian intelligence agency, Research and Analysis Wing. What I want to say is that allegations are leveled by such elements to win the support and confidence of the Pakistani people in general and the people of Punjab in particular. It was under this obsolete and shameful tradition that serious accusations have been, and are being made against the MQM.

My countrymen I would like to draw your attention to the Jinnahpur conspiracy. The conspiracy was part of the game of playing with the blood of the people living in the urban areas of Sindh. The game was started by Gen. Asif Nawaz, his fellow generals, and army officers. When the operation began in Sindh, the Army accused the MQM of running torture cells and resorting to violence against political opponents. In fact, it was them who set up the torture cells and then attributed them to the MQM in an attempt to substantiate their allegations. These allegations were widely propagated through newspapers, magazines, and the government media, including the electronic media.

A conspiracy was also hatched to divide MQM into several factions. Terrorists were provided with Army protection and weapons and were then named the MQM-Haqiqi. Later, in an attempt to give legitimacy to the terrorist band of the Haqiqi faction, Gen. Asif Nawaz made a statement saying if the Muslim League could have a number of groups, then so should the MQM. Gen. Asif Nawaz's statement exposed his intentions, political plans, and the conspiracy that was being hatched against the MQM. They wanted to eliminate the MQM at all costs. When the people began to realize the reality behind the allegations against the MQM and the false propaganda that was exposed, Brig. Asif Harun invited journalists from Punjab to Karachi to listen to the story. He did not, however, invite any journalists from Karachi. Brig. Asif Harun presented the Punjab journalists with documents relating to Jinnahpur and a drafted map of Jinnahpur and told them that the Army had unearthed the MQM's Jinnahpur conspiracy. The reality, however, was just the opposite, that is, all documents relating to Jinnahpur and its map were prepared by officers who were themselves under the command of Brig. Asif Harun. The reports on Jinnahpur and the alleged map was widely published in the national dailies with bold headlines. The majority of the simple-minded people took the allegations to be true and considered the Army operation in urban areas of Sindh, especially in Karachi, Hyderabad, Sukkur, and Mirpur Khas, as a legitimate one and were happy with it. Almost all the newspapers wrote editorials condemning the fabricated conspiracy of Jinnahpur. The sellout columnists wrote articles, thereby further misleading the people. The people of the country, and a majority of the people of Punjab not only began to dislike the MQM, but a feeling of hatred developed in their minds against the Muhajirs. Similar feelings also developed among the Sindhis and extremist Sindhis began issuing extremely provocative statements over the fabricated conspiracy of Jinnahpur. They said that the Army had uncovered the MQM's conspiracy and the MQM people wanted to divide Sindh by creating Jinnahpur. These statements created a hatred in common Sindhis against the MQM and Muhajirs.

My dear countrymen, imagine the kind of tyranny committed against the country by the Army officers under Brig. Asif Harun's command, by propagating the fabricated conspiracy of Jinnahpur. They divided the people of Pakistan by the false propaganda, created hatred, and widened the gap already existing between people.

Dear Pakistanis, you know that it might be easy to create hatred between people by spreading false propaganda and conspiracies, however, it is not only difficult to transform hatred into love, but it takes a long time to do so. Tell me where the MQM should go to explain the facts. How can it approach each and every Pakistani and explain that the conspiracy of Jinnahpur was not plotted by the MQM, instead it was plotted by the army officers themselves to malign the MQM? The present government is also propagating untrue stories around the world to malign the MQM. You know that governments enjoy resources, authority, and power. Any false propaganda carried out by a government reaches every corner of the country. The party of poor and middle class people — the MQM — does not have the resources to reach every corner of the country and tell each of the Pakistani that the allegations made by the government are false. This is why I am addressing you through this letter, as this is the only means now by which I can tell the truth and clarify certain allegations.

Patriotic Pakistanis, you may be wondering why Altaf Hussain, who is telling the truth, chose to form an organization named for the Muhajirs; therefore, my brothers and sisters, let me proceed by telling you briefly that the Muhajirs have never considered themselves muhajirs before. They have always regarded themselves as Pakistanis and felt a part of the nation. Even today, the Muhajirs do not think poorly of Pakistan, they have great affection and noble feelings for the motherland.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners

Yes, I was explaining why we needed to use the term 'Muhajir.' I would like to briefly explain that. In Sindh, the Muhajirs were discriminated against; they faced closed doors when seeking employment in government services, police and other departments, and higher educational institutions. You yourself should ponder why Muhajirs were not being inducted into the police in the urban areas of Sindh when the people of Punjab and the North-West Frontier Province are employed in the police departments of these provinces and Sindhis are recruited in the Sindh police. Why is it so? Are Muhajirs not citizens of this country? Why can they not be given jobs in the police department? Nobody has an answer to this question. Similarly, it was only in the Sindh Province where an unfair quota system was enforced on the basis of the rural and urban population. A bill was introduced in the Sindh Assembly to make Sindhi the official language. Ethnic riots were incited in Sindh. Thousands of Muhajirs were killed. Thousands of Muhajir families had to migrate from the interior of Sindh to Karachi and Hyderabad cities and slowly and gradually Muhajirs were ousted from senior civil service positions. People still remember Ayub Khan's words that "there is sea for the Muhajirs."

My dear countrymen, as everything was being done against the Muhajirs, neither the MQM nor Altaf Hussain was in the political arena. At that time, Muhajirs were either with the Jamaat-i-Islami or the Jamiat-i-Ulema-i-Pakistan, or the Muslim League, or other national parties and voted for these parties. None of these religious and political parties raised a voice to stop the discriminatory actions that were being taken against the Muhajirs. Instead, the elected representatives of these national parties signed plans and ordinances that were promulgated against the Muhajirs. Take, for example, the quota system. The signatories to the quota system ordinance were those elected members of the Jamaat-i-Islami, the Jamiat-i-Ulema-i-Pakistan, and other political parties who were elected from the urban areas of Sindh on the strength of the Muhajirs' votes. Had these national parties and their leaders raised their voices and struggled against the injustices done to the Muhajirs, the formation of the MQM in the name of the Muhajirs would not have been necessary. You yourself should think that when the Muhajirs were made the direct target of economic, educational, and financial exploitation, the political and religious parties that they had been supporting did not raise their voice in favor of the legitimate rights of the Muhajirs, nor did they protest the discriminatory treatment meted out to them. They did not protest the tyrannical process of removing the Muhajirs from their positions in almost all departments, in the end the Muhajirs were left with no option. How long could they have waited?

My dear countrymen, when no one raised his voice in favor of the Muhajirs, they were forced to jump into the arena themselves and set up the "Muhajir Qaumi Movement" to protect their basic constitutional rights. Think what you would have done if you were treated in the way the Muhajirs had been over the years and there was no one to raise their voice in your favor. My dear countrymen, I would like to explain my point here to make it easier for you to understand what we want and what our demands and grievances are. We do not have a long list of demands. Our demand is that the Muhajirs be given their due rights proportionate to their population in every field. We want the rights that have been guaranteed to every citizen under the Constitution of Pakistan. Now I ask you: Is it a crime, a sin, to demand rights that are guaranteed to every Pakistani by the Constitution?

My dear Pakistanis, when the MQM succeeded in bringing the Muhajirs' grievances to the notice of the general public, the public began understanding the problems, so we decided to move ahead. If we had not cared for the country and our countrymen, or if we were narrow-minded, we would not have talked of establishing the "Mutahaddah Qaumi Movement" [United National Movement] by expanding the scope of the Muhajir Qaumi Movement to cover the entire country. Everyone knows that we were set to announce the formation of the Mutahaddah Qaumi Movement on 14 August 1992, but before we could make the announcement, a military operation was launched against the MQM on 19 June 1992 preventing us from announcing the establishment of the Mutahaddah Qaumi Movement.

You know that the MQM is the only party in the country that does not have big landlords and feudal lords as its members. The MQM is the only party that brought middle class leaders into national politics in the history of Pakistan. It assisted those from the poor and the middle class to win elections and to enter the assemblies or seats of power. It created a tradition of playing politics on the strength of truth and honesty instead of money power. Our action was met with disfavor by the feudal lords, landlords, and those who were looting the country's wealth and resources. When the MQM's message began spreading to every corner of the country, units of Mutahaddah Qaumi Movement were established in every province, and the number of its workers and sympathizers began to gradually increase. The MQM's activities continued even after the launch of the military operation. The Benazir Bhutto government arrested hundreds of my colleagues, including Iftekhar Randhawa, Ataullah, Arbab Mushtaq — organizers of the movement from Punjab, Balochistan, and the North-West Frontier Province respectively — and subjected them

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

to untold torture and violence. Even today, countless MQM workers are languishing in jails. Wasal Ahmad Shahid, the chief organizer of the Mutahaddah Qaumi Movement, was arrested and tortured. My dear countrymen, all this was done, and is still being done, to stifle the growth of the Mutahaddah Qaumi Movement — the true protector of the rights of the poor and middle class sections of the population — and to ensure that the seat of power and the country's resources remain the hereditary estate of the feudal lords and the rich.

My dear fellow citizens, three years and nine months have elapsed since the launch of the military operations in the urban areas of Sindh. The military operation is not only continuing, but its intensity increases with each passing day. The Rangers and police besiege Muhajir colonies the same way they surround captured areas. Rangers and police personnel led by a captain or a colonel besiege entire colonies and conduct house-to-house searches. Men, including children over 12 years of age and those who are 80-90-years old, and the elderly and sick, are arrested and gathered in a big field. Their shirts are removed and they are blindfolded. When a sick elderly person, or any other man, asks for water, he is beaten with a rifle butt instead of being given water. These detainees are kept hungry and thirsty all day and all night. Those who can afford the bribe of hundreds of thousands of rupees are released, but those who cannot afford to pay the bribe are implicated falsely of murder or attempted murder and are sent to jail to undergo more torture. The siege of the Muhajir colonies has become a daily routine now. During these operations, not only are men arrested, but Muhajir women and girls are molested and abused. Their belongings, jewelry, and other valuables are looted. As these horrible acts continue, Muhajir youths are being arrested and murdered ruthlessly. Rangers and police personnel try to cover this blatant murder by saying that they were killed in an encounter. Over the past three months alone, more than 100 MQM workers have been arrested and subsequently murdered. Most of those murdered were between the ages of 15 to 30.

My dear countrymen, wild and hard-hearted General Nasirullah Khan Babar, the interior minister, continues to tell his personnel that it is difficult to punish criminals through the court system and that it takes a long time, so go ahead and kill them. This is easy to do in the name of police encounters. Gen. Nasirullah Babar and Benazir Bhutto have authorized the Rangers and the police to kill any person at will, to indulge in looting and plundering anywhere they wish. The prime minister applauds and rewards Rangers and police personnel when they murder innocent Muhajir youths. Benazir Bhutto has given so much power and liberty to these law enforcement agencies that the Rangers have now started releasing political handouts in addition to their normal false handouts. They have become so accustomed to attacking unarmed Muhajirs that they have forgotten all human values, like civility and kindness. Even during the month of Ramadan, even on the last Friday of the month of Ramadan, these savage Rangers and police personnel did not show any mercy and entered mosques with their shoes on and arrested people. They did not even spare the people who were offering prayers.

My dear Pakistanis, the government's assertion that it is killing terrorists is a pure lie. The truth is that the Rangers and the police have arrested the Muhajir youths, killed them in cold blood, and then released a fabricated handout saying they killed certain terrorists in a fierce encounter.

My fellow citizens, Pakistan is a country with a written Constitution and law. The Constitution and the law do not allow the president or the prime minister to randomly declare that any citizen is a terrorist and have him killed. This is the case with the Rangers and the police. They cannot declare a person a terrorist and have him killed at will. Unfortunately, no agency — neither the Rangers, the police, nor any other organization — respects the Constitution or the law of the land. The law says that anyone who is accused of being involved in a major or minor crime should be arrested and brought to court with all the proof and evidence. Then the court will decide whether the person is guilty or innocent. When the prime minister openly announces, in utter disregard of the Constitution and the law, that the MQM workers and its leaders will continue to be killed in police encounters, one can see how ineffective our Constitution and law are. Biased and racist, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has become such an extremist that she openly brands Muhajirs as "rats," "cowards," and "persons of bad blood" in her public rallies.

My dear countrymen, the exploitation of Muhajirs at all levels began soon after the establishment of Pakistan, which still continues with full force. After coming into power, the PPP government extended the scope of the Muhajirs' economic exploitation to foreign countries and began to deport overseas Muhajirs from their countries of residence. Thousands of Muhajirs are currently working or doing business in foreign countries, including the Gulf countries — particularly Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates — because of the lack of jobs at home. Not only do they support their own family members, but they also provide assistance to those Muhajirs who have become victims of the government's repression and tyranny in Pakistan. The PPP government is now pressuring foreign countries to de-

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

port Muhajirs, especially the MQM workers, who live there and hand them over to Pakistan. Under this nefarious campaign, two workers — Imtiaz Ahmad Tahir and Mahbub Jilani — of the Muhibban-i-Pakistan [friends of Pakistan], who have been living in Saudi Arabia for 18 years, were handed over to the Government of Pakistan. I would like to inform you that the Muhibban-i-Pakistan is in fact a welfare organization for Pakistanis living in the Gulf countries. It provides assistance to Muhajirs and other truth- loving people who face oppression in Pakistan and also to the Pakistanis stranded in Bangladesh. The Government of Pakistan is forwarding false reports to foreign countries, leveling false and shameful allegations against the Muhajirs and the MQM workers. These foreign governments are being asked to extradite these Muhajirs, especially the MQM workers, from their respective countries to Pakistan. My dear countrymen, I ask you if the Muhajirs cannot live in their own country, nor in foreign countries, where can they go? If the Muhajirs, vexed by this situation, choose another path for their survival, who will be responsible for that?

Fellow citizens, Rangers and police personnel arrest young brothers in front of their sisters, fathers in front of their innocent children, and young sons in front of their mothers in the Muhajir colonies. These mothers, sisters, and innocent children implore these savage Rangers and police personnel not to arrest their innocent sons, brothers, and fathers, but these savages feel no pity for them; instead, they proudly declare that they will send dead bodies of their sons, brothers, and fathers to them after a few hours. My dear brothers and sisters, there are thousands of such examples of oppression, barbarism, and savagery, which I cannot describe here, but I would like to detail one such incident. A day before the festival of 'Id al-Fitr, the Rangers raided a house in which certain members of the MQM Landhi Sector lived in hiding. A worker of the MQM Labor Division had arrived with his wife and seven innocent daughters. His daughters had pressed him to buy them new clothes for the festival. They had not had new clothes for the past two 'Id al-Fitr festivals, because they had been in hiding since 19 June 1992. Overcome by emotion at his daughters' pleas, the father thought about it and then brought his family to a house at Tariq Road in Karachi, where some members of the MQM Landhi Sector were hiding, so that he could take them to the market for 'Id al-Fitr shopping in the morning. Look at the tragedy of that family, that night the Rangers raided that house and arrested the MQM's sector in charge and two workers of the sector committee, along with the father of those seven girls. The innocent girls started crying and humbly implored the Rangers to release their father who had gone there the same evening to buy new clothes for them, but the Rangers felt no pity for them and arrested those four people and took them to North Karachi, where they were subjected to severe torture and later ruthlessly killed in fake police encounters. When the girls saw their father's dead body, they started wailing and seeking forgiveness from their father, saying they were responsible for his death because they were the ones who had asked for new clothes. They never knew that their demand would lead to their dear father's death.

My dear countrymen, you just read about one tragic incident, but there are thousands such woeful incidents on record whose details can make even the most hard-hearted person cry. Please think how mercilessly Muhajir youths are being massacred. Neither the Rangers, the police, nor the government feel any pity for them. My dear Pakistanis, you must have read in your newspapers that the Rangers and the police arrested my 66-year-old brother and my 28-year-old nephew and subjected them to inhuman torture for three days before murdering them in cold blood on 9 December 1995. This was in spite of the fact that they were not MQM workers, nor had anything to do with politics. What is even more regrettable is that while commenting on my brother's murder, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto said that the government had not arrested Altaf Hussain's half brother. Please look at the term "half brother" here and think why Benazir used this word. Does this not reflect her barbaric thinking? Abdullah Shah [Sindh Chief Minister] made a similar statement, saying Nasir Hussain was Altaf Hussain's half brother. Do they think it is justifiable to kill a half brother? My dear fellow citizens, praise be to God who granted me the courage to bear the loss. I did not appeal to the government for the release of my brother and nephew. Please think how sad my family members are, they bereaved and mournful they are at the barbaric killing of my innocent brother and nephew. What could they have felt when they heard Benazir Bhutto and Abdullah Shah use the word "half brother." My family and I endured this tragedy, instead of demonstrating sentimentality, I advised my colleagues to observe restraint and remain peaceful. Had I been overtaken by rage and sentimentality, I could have said some harsh things and incited my compatriots to take revenge, but I did not do that. You have seen that I did not betray one iota of emotion, instead I advised my colleagues to observe restraint. My dear fellow citizens, I have left it to the Lord of the Universe, the Almighty God, to decide the case of the murder of my brother and nephew.

My dear countrymen, you must have recently read reports that the Rangers arrested two MQM workers — Naim Sheri and Amjad Khalil Beg — in Karachi, killed them in fake police encounter, and then raised the slogan "Long Live Pakistan!" This act by the Rangers caused

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

great grief and anguish in the minds of the Muhajirs and severely hurt their feelings and sensibilities. Could you tell me why these Rangers raised the slogan "Long Live Pakistan?" Did they raise that slogan because they had conquered Kashmir? Is it patriotic to raise the slogan of "Long Live Pakistan" after killing the unarmed and helpless youths of one's own country. Today, a question arises in every Muhajir's mind of whether their forefathers sacrificed thousands of lives to establish and save Pakistan only to see government officials raising victorious slogans after massacring their children in their own homeland. After all, what did the Muhajirs say against Pakistan to force the slogans of "Long Live Pakistan" to be raised after their massacre? My fellow citizens, this is neither a joke, nor a trivial matter that can be ignored. The time has come for our countrymen to take serious note of the conspiracies and their implications and the state-sponsored atrocities being perpetrated in the urban areas of Sindh, and to play their role to bring them to an end.

Fellow citizens, you have just been given an overview of the atrocities committed by the Rangers and the police against the Muhajirs, and the barbaric manner in which Muhajir youths are being massacred. I would like you now to consider the following point: Repeated appeals were made to President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari and the chief of army staff to stop the massacre of the Muhajirs, but they did not take any steps to prevent these killings. Now tell me, where should we go to seek justice? Now that all the courts have been turned into PPP's party offices, where else can we go to air our grievances?

My dear countrymen, I have placed before you only a few facts. In light of these facts, I ask you whether the sacrifices — both personnel and material — given by our forefathers to create Pakistan were for nothing? Did they commit a crime in making such sacrifices to justify their children being barbarously murdered, their homes and hearths looted, their mothers, sisters, and daughters molested? Please think. Could Pakistan have been created if the Muslim minority states had not launched the movement for Pakistan and sacrificed their lives and property for it? Today, the offices of the president, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, and the powerful post of the chief of the army staff are high-level positions left by the martyrs who sacrificed their sacred blood to create Pakistan. Had there been no Pakistan, the Rangers would not be wearing the uniform they wear now. Did our forefathers create Pakistan only to see those in higher positions remain silent spectators to the massacres of children? Do the law enforcement agency personnel not wear uniforms to protect the children of the founders of Pakistan, instead of being "death squads" for them?

My fellow citizens, I ask you: For what crimes are the Muhajirs being punished? What is our offense? Will you remain silent about the massacres as well? Do you think we are not Pakistanis? We fervently appeal to you to raise your voice, for God's sake, to stop the genocide of the Muhajirs. You know that the Muhajirs not only sacrificed 2 million lives for the creation of Pakistan, but also actively assisted the Pakistani Armed Forces and sacrificed another 700,000 lives to save the country in 1971. Please ponder why, after 24 years, there are about 250,000 Pakistanis stranded in Bangladesh leading miserable lives in refugee camps there? Would these stranded Pakistani be living in Red Cross camps for 24 years had they been Punjabis, Sindhis, Balochis, or Pashtuns? I appeal to you to raise your voice in favor of the transfer of these stranded Pakistanis to their homeland, Pakistan. I also appeal to you to not only raise your voice of truth to help stop the massacre of the Muhajirs, but also to participate actively in this struggle. The Muhajirs are being pushed to the walls and are being mercilessly murdered. These acts of genocide intensify everyday. If you don't come forward now, the responsibility for the survival of coming generations' will not only rest with the rulers, but with you all. The Muhajirs will not be responsible for the consequences. In conclusion, I would like to urge you not to consider Muhajirs as the enemies of Pakistan, because if they were inimical to Pakistan, they would not have created it in the first place. They would not have sacrificed their lives and property for the establishment of Pakistan. Neither the Muhajirs nor the MQM leaders and workers are the enemies of Pakistan. We only want the realization of our legitimate rights, and to remain within the geography of Pakistan. If any of my words hurt your feelings, I apologize. Peace be upon you.

[Signed] Yours exiled Pakistani brother, Altaf Hussain

Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka: Information Sought on 12 LTTE Bombers; Alert Issued

BK0304045796 Hong Kong AFP in English 0443 GMT 3 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Colombo, April 3 (AFP) — The Sri Lankan police Wednesday [3 April] called for public cooperation to hunt down 12 Tamil Tiger suicide bombers who had infiltrated the capital Colombo after the devastating bombing of the Central Bank here in January.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Police issued identikit pictures of the 12 men, drawn up following tipoffs after the devastating January 31 truck bombing in downtown Colombo in which 91 people were killed and 1,400 wounded.

"The police ask that any information regarding them be conveyed immediately," a government statement said, giving the telephone numbers of the investigators and military units handling security in the capital.

The appeal came amid an alert in Colombo for more such strikes by the rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) whose suicide squad, known as the Black Tigers, have carried out kamikaze attacks since their first kill nine years ago.

Shortly after the Central Bank blast, police arrested two men believed to have been involved in the attack. The descriptions of the 12 men sought by police showed they were either in their late teens or early twenties.

Six of the men were linked to the LTTE's intelligence wing.

Roads which lead to the official residence of President Chandrika Kumaratunga have been sealed off and anti-aircraft guns and radar mounted around the presidential palace.

The one-mile (1.5-kilometer) -long Colombo seafront has been declared a prohibited zone, while authorities have banned all domestic flights, fearing that the Tigers may hijack one of them for a real kamikaze mission.

The first LTTE suicide bombing was against an army camp at Nelliyadi in the Jaffna peninsula in 1987. A Black Tiger known as Captain Miller drove an explosive-laden truck into the camp, killing 39 soldiers by official count.

Since then, the list of LTTE suicide attacks has been growing long steadily and include high profile victims.

The LTTE has been accused of assassinating former Indian prime minister Rajiv Gandhi in May 1991 followed by the then Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa in May 1993.

Gandhi was blown up at an election rally in southern India by a woman suicide bomber who set off explosives strapped on her while pretending to touch his feet as a mark of respect.

Premadasa was similarly killed at a May Day rally here by a male Tiger who had infiltrated the presidential household.

Sri Lanka: Troops Find More Bombs in Colombo

BK0304081696 Hong Kong AFP in English 0807 GMT 3 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] COLOMBO, April 3 (AFP) — Security forces raided a garage in the capital Colombo on Wednesday [3 April] and seized plastic explosives and cyanide capsules, a suicide device typically carried by Tamil Tiger guerrillas, the defence ministry said.

In a pre-dawn raid, the troops found four kilos (8.8 pounds) of type C-4 plastic explosives, ammunition, two hand grenades, a timing device and five cyanide capsules, the ministry said adding that a suspect had been arrested.

Members of the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) carry cyanide capsules around their necks to bite on them and commit suicide rather than get arrested.

The latest discovery came three weeks after security forces found a powerful bomb in Colombo's commercial area of Kotahena.

The latest discovery came amid a citywide alert for suicide bomb attacks by the Tamil Tigers who have been blamed for the January 31 truck bombing of the central bank, leaving 91 people dead and 1,400 wounded.

Suicide bombers are a trademark of the LTTE and have been used successfully to assassinate political leaders as well as military commanders in the past nine years.

Sri Lanka: Spokesman Reports 12 LTTE Rebels Killed in Jaffna

BK0304122196 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 3 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Twelve LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists were killed in a confrontation with a group of troops at Velikamam in Jaffna yesterday. One soldier died in action. Troops also recovered a large stock of weapons from the terrorists.

Military spokesman Brigadier Sarath Munasinghe told newsmen yesterday that two clashes between the troops and the LTTE were reported in Pandattarippu. In one incident, two terrorists were killed and a soldier sacrificed his life in the confrontation. In the other incident, troops killed two terrorists and recovered their weapons and a radio set.

Brigadier Munasinghe said that the LTTE had released the names of 23 Sea Tigers killed in a clash at sea at Vettilaikerny recently. Three Sea Tiger leaders were also killed by the naval troops. They are: Lieutenant Ganesh,

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Nimal, and Major Jagannathan. Captain (Ramahan) of the LTTE anti-aircraft squad, who was a member of the special team of Prabhakaran, was also reported killed in clashes with troops. The military spokesman said that LTTE had ordered the civilians of Jaffna to proceed to Kilinochchi areas. They have stopped (?sea traveling) in Kilali from 1 April. This was not accepted by the people.

In the meantime, the LTTE eastern leader Karikalan has stated that Eelam should be established even in one area as they cannot prevent the capturing of the Jaffna peninsula by the security forces. The statement was made by him at a meeting held at Veeramandapam in Kilinochchi recently.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 352
MERRIFIELD, VA.

This is a U.S. Government publication produced by the Foreign Broadcast Information Service (FBIS). Its contents in no way represent the policies, views, or attitudes of the U.S. Government.

FBIS collects, translates, disseminates, and analyzes foreign open-source information on behalf of the U.S. Government. Its publications may contain copyrighted material. ***Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.***

— Bracketed indicators before the first sentence of each item describe the way in which the material was processed by FBIS.

— Headlines and all bracketed explanatory notes are supplied by FBIS.

— Personal and place names are rendered in accordance with the decisions of the U.S. Board on Geographic Names as adapted by FBIS. Unverified names in radio and television material appear in parentheses and are spelled phonetically; words and phrases in parentheses preceded by a question mark are unclear in the original and deduced from context.

SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

U.S. Government Customers

For a list of FBIS products, to subscribe to an FBIS publication, or to indicate a change of address contact:

FBIS
P.O. Box 2604
Washington, DC 20013-2604
Telephone: (202) 338-6735
FAX: (703) 733-6042

Non-Government Customers

Subscriptions are available from the National Technical Information Service.

NTIS
5285 Port Royal Road
Springfield, VA 22161
Telephone: (703) 487-4630
FAX: (703) 321-8547

New subscribers should expect a 30-day delay in receipt of the first issue.